
*In*Clarens

EN OMGEWING / AND SURROUNDS

R15-00



ISSN 2220 - 2099



Butterflies in Clarens

#18

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Clarens is ...



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Of liever Clarens het fees gevier. Met wapperende vlae, pluim in die hoed, trots in die saal het hulle Hoofstraat kleurvol gevat. George Mousley het 'n Britse rooibaadjie van èrens gehaal en lieflike nostalgie aan die seremonie verleen. Die "Boere" het hul vlae uit vergange se kas loop haal en die kinders het die optog sommer bloots aangepak. Net soos kinders van 'n eeu gelede – stewig op die perde.

Niel van Schalkwyk en Christo Roos het hierdie besondere optog deur Clarens se strate beplan en gelei. Dit was vroegoggend, die son het met flenterwolke gestoei en die ingehoue opgewondenheid was tasbaar. 'n Honderd jaar het verbygegaan...

If you're a visitor to Clarens and the Eastern Free State, read in this edition where to eat and what to do. Most of all enjoy your stay.

Read more about the Centenary Celebrations, as well as Fouriesburg's Activities festival, which was held in September last year.

In Clarens wishes all her readers many happy hours in our beautiful area.



Contributors:
Mary-Ann Pickers
Aniena Aber
Noel Hutton
Kieta Weyer

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DIE OOS-VRYSTAAT BALJAAR!



Foto: Amanda van Blerk

Verlede jaar is daar nie net Eeufees gevier in die Oos-Vrystaat nie, maar ook Aktiwiteitsfees in Fouriesburg en natuurlik 'n baie geslaagde jaarlikse Kersiefees in Ficksburg, skryf Aniena Aber.

Die Oos-Vrystaat het beslis rede tot feesviering. Clarens se honderd jaar het ons half ongesiens bekrui, maar dit is behoorlik gevier. Miskien het dit nie aan almal se verwagtinge voldoen nie, maar die inwoners en besoekers aan Clarens gedurende die paar dae is dit eens oor een ding. Daar was 'n onderliggende tinteling wat uitborrelplek gesoek het en daardie plek was Clarens. En soos aan die begin van die uitgawe genoem is, was die perdekommendo die trots van die fees.

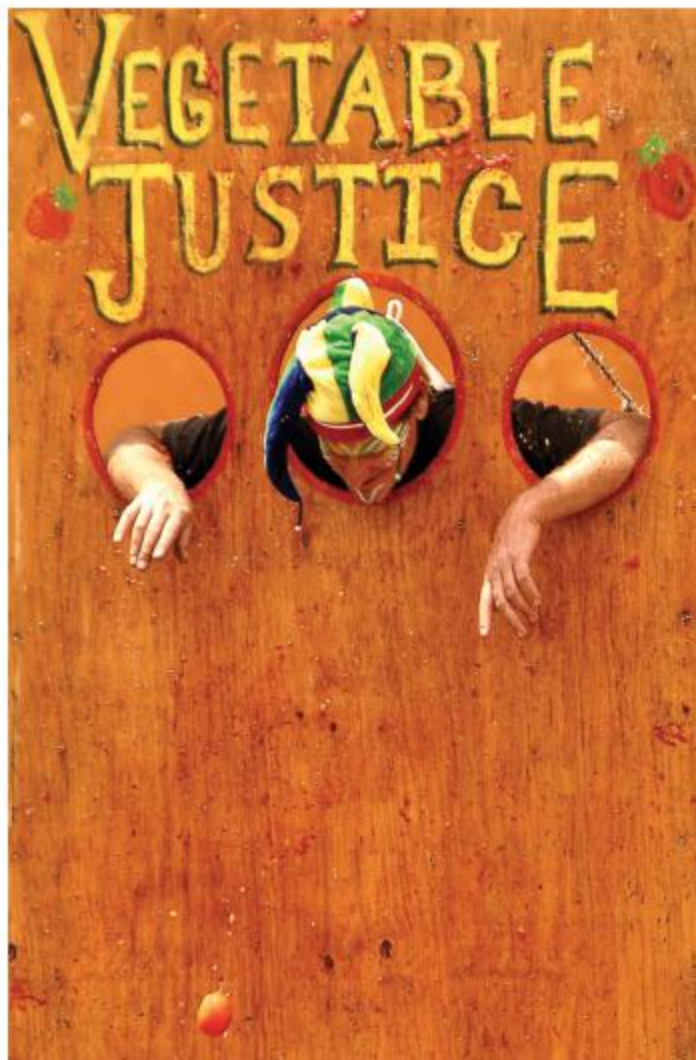
'n Baie belangrike ooreenkoms word verseël deur Laurent Wehrli en Uitvoerende Burgemeester van Dihlabeng, Tjhetane Mofokeng terwyl raadslid Clem Harrington toekyk.



Foto: Amanda van Blerk

Toe die karretjie met die burge-meester van Montreux, Laurent Wehrli en gade Myriam, Hoofstraat vat, met die perdekommendo trots agterna, het Clarens geweet daar het 'n eeu verbygegaan. Met die ondertekening van die samewerkingsooreenkoms, het een en almal geweet dat Clarens, al is hy 'n plattelandse dorpie, meer as net 'n kolletjie op 'n padkaart is.

Die "Vegetable Justice" het gesorg vir groot pret by die Clarens Fees. Onder luide toejuiging het die vrotterige tamaties af en toe die kol getref. Die jongklomp het die eerste tamaties gegooi maar wanneer hulle nie gou genoeg die teiken haal nie, het pa ingegryp. Net om hulle te wys hoe dit gedoen moet word en dan nie altyd geslaag nie.



Die volkspelers van Bethlehem het op beide Eeufees as Aktiwiteitsfees opgetree.



Wyn en kaas by die Eeufees in Clarens. Die tent was baie gewild.

Fouriesburg skud sy vere reg

Fouriesburg het hulle 'n goed georganiseerde oefenlopie gehad en met die 120-jaar-myl-paal hierdie jaar, kan hulle net van krag tot krag gaan. Met Martie Craig as dryfveer, sal die Aktiwiteitsfees hierdie jaar aan alle verwagtinge voldoen. Soos op die foto's gesien kan word, weet die Fouriesburgers hoe om aktief betrokke te raak by alles wat pret en plesier is. Volgende jaar se groot verjaardagfees belowe om weer so te wees.



Photo by Noel Hutton

*Fouriesburgers gee nie om vir bietjie moddertjies en vuilword nie.
Die moddergat het vir groot opwinding gesorg.*



Photo by Noel Hutton



Photo by Noel Hutton



Foto Johan Brits

Martie Craig (Fouriesburg Forum) by twee lede van die vryvals pan wat deur Chevrolet geborg is

Hierdie
pret is
bietjie
skoner as
die karre se
modderbad
en pas in
by 'n "ou"
Fees.
Volgende
jaar sal
weer so
wees!



Foto Johann Brits



Photo by Nels Foubert

Kleidiuifskiet
was besonder
gewild by
Fouriesburg
se Aktiwite-
itsfees. Hier
probeer Jolè
Mans om die
teiken te tref.

Cheery cherry festivities to top a season of celebrations

The Ficksburg Cherry Festival is the oldest crop festival in South Africa and celebrated its 45th anniversary last year. Coordinator Gavin Boy promised some serious upgrades and all of those were right and ready in time for last year's blast.

Because November, festival time, is also a time of heavy rainstorms in Ficksburg, large areas were put under corrugated iron roofing and concrete floors were laid. And of course, it didn't rain this year at the Festival. In years to come, though, the amenities will be in place and should the weather get up to its usual tricks, that department will be covered.

A collection of sports cars were on display, various workshops were presented, Afrikaans song artists performed and much more was to be enjoyed. The Friesian horses though took top honours. A regular sight at the Festival and they performed to the crowd's appreciation. With flowing mane and fine steps they danced to the music and their master's voice.



Vintage or new, they always are an attraction.



The idea for the first Cherry Festival came about in 1967 when a group of young men established a Ficksburg chapter of the international leadership/ service organization, Jaycee International. They needed a project that would serve the community in order to launch their new organisation. Something cherry-related seemed to be the obvious way to go and the Jaycees decided on a festival to promote the cherry industry, as well as the town. With humble beginnings the first Cherry Carnival (as it was then known) consisted of a film-show and the selection of a Cherry Queen. The following day a street procession of drum majorettes and floats featuring the Cherry Queen entertained the crowd with the Grand Cherry Ball taking place that evening. The festival is currently run by a community appointed voluntary committee coordinated by Gavin Boy.

It's clear to see why the Cherry Festival is keenly anticipated by festival fans and visitors return year after year as the entertainment just gets better. So wherever you may be in South Africa, make your way to this year's festival and have a whole lot of fun.

Come to Clarens

Planning to visit the Eastern Free State in 2013?

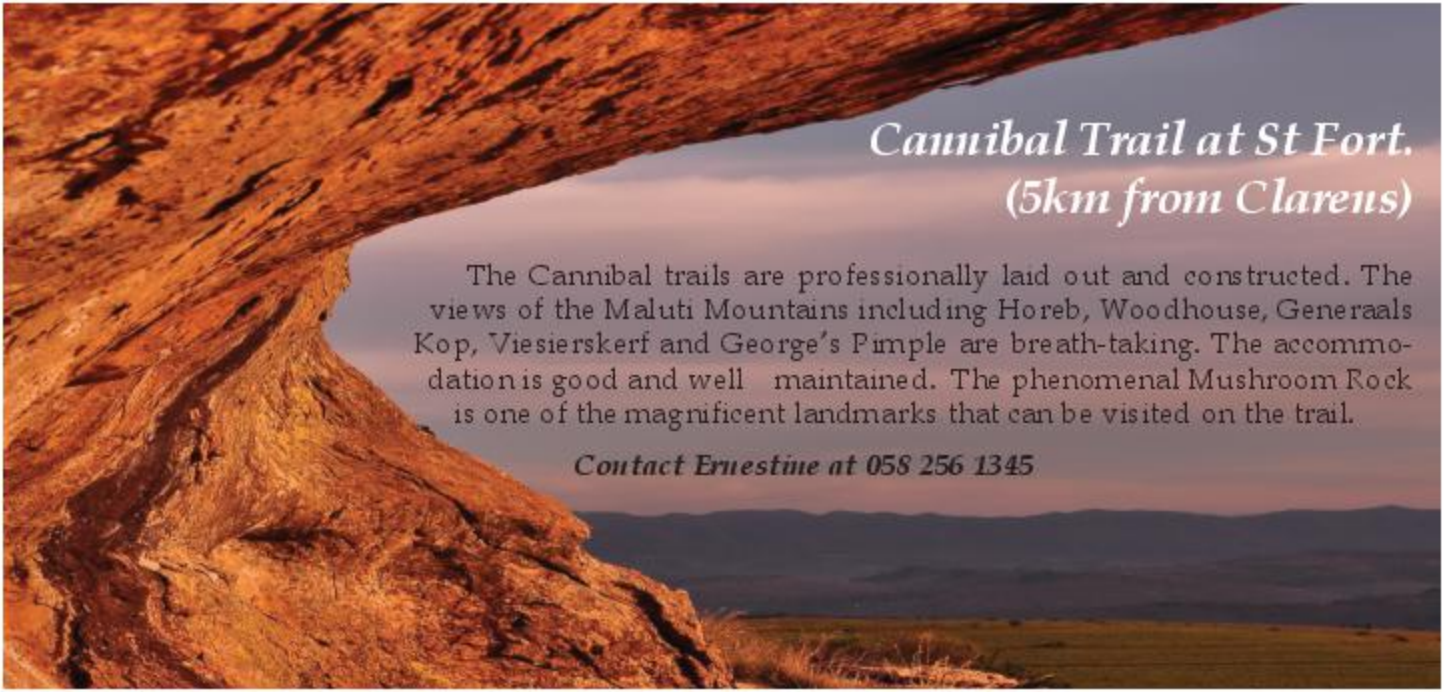
Clarens offers visitors endless options of things to do, from visiting landmarks to taking guided tours and exploring on your own. Here are some popular suggestions for helping you narrow down what you'd like to see and do while you're visiting.

Hiking trails:

There are clearly marked hiking trails within the town's boundaries starting in Berg Street and end at the end of Main Street or following the river trail all the way from the Kloof dam to Lake Clarens Guesthouse. Maps are available at Mountain Odyssey, Clarens Destinations and Sandstone Bottle Store.

There are a multitude of trails to explore in and around Clarens. Situated on the scenic R711 route from Clarens to Fouriesburg are the following:

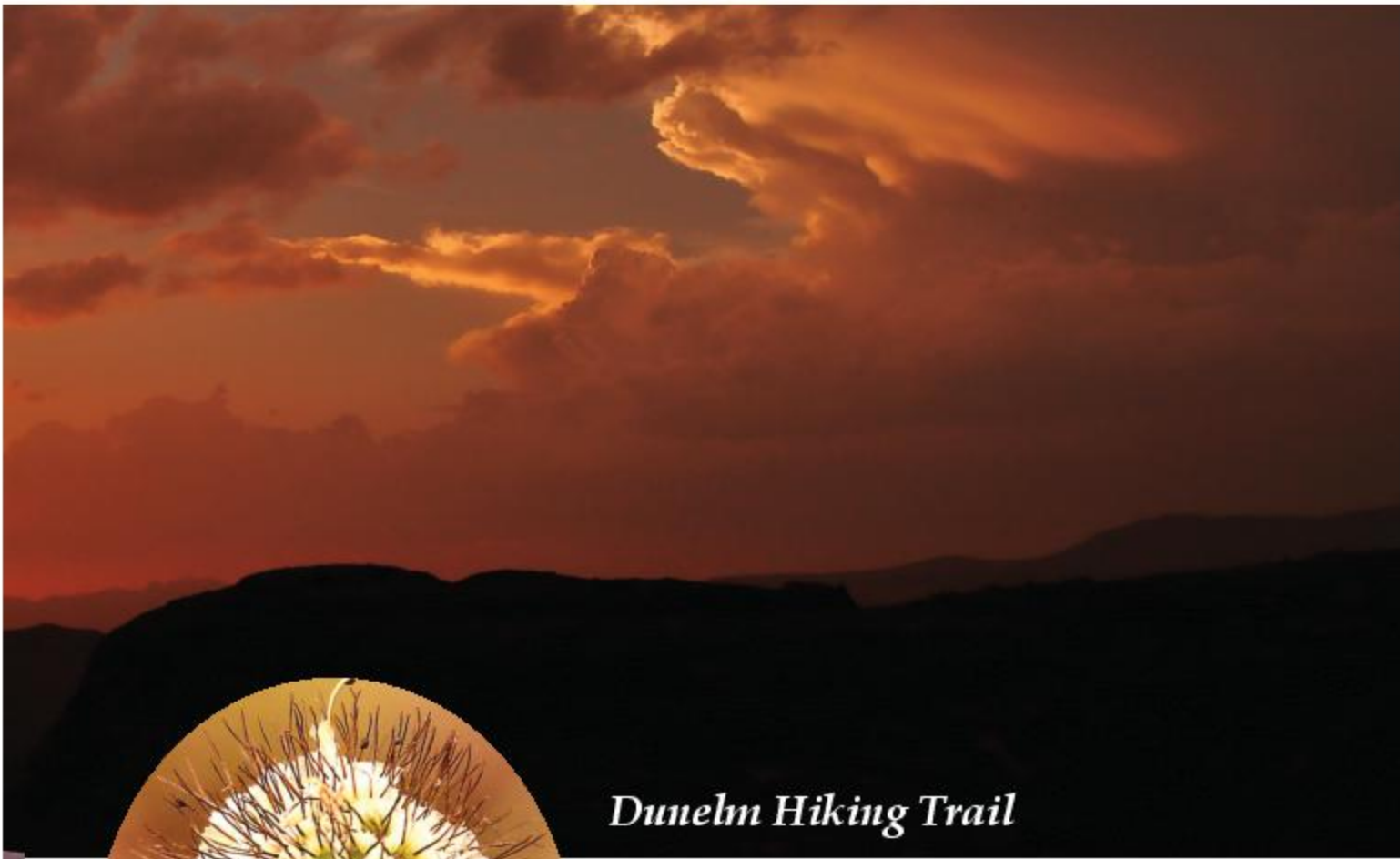




Cannibal Trail at St Fort. (5km from Clarens)

The Cannibal trails are professionally laid out and constructed. The views of the Maluti Mountains including Horeb, Woodhouse, Generaals Kop, Viesierskerf and George’s Pimple are breath-taking. The accommodation is good and well maintained. The phenomenal Mushroom Rock is one of the magnificent landmarks that can be visited on the trail.

Contact Ernestine at 058 256 1345



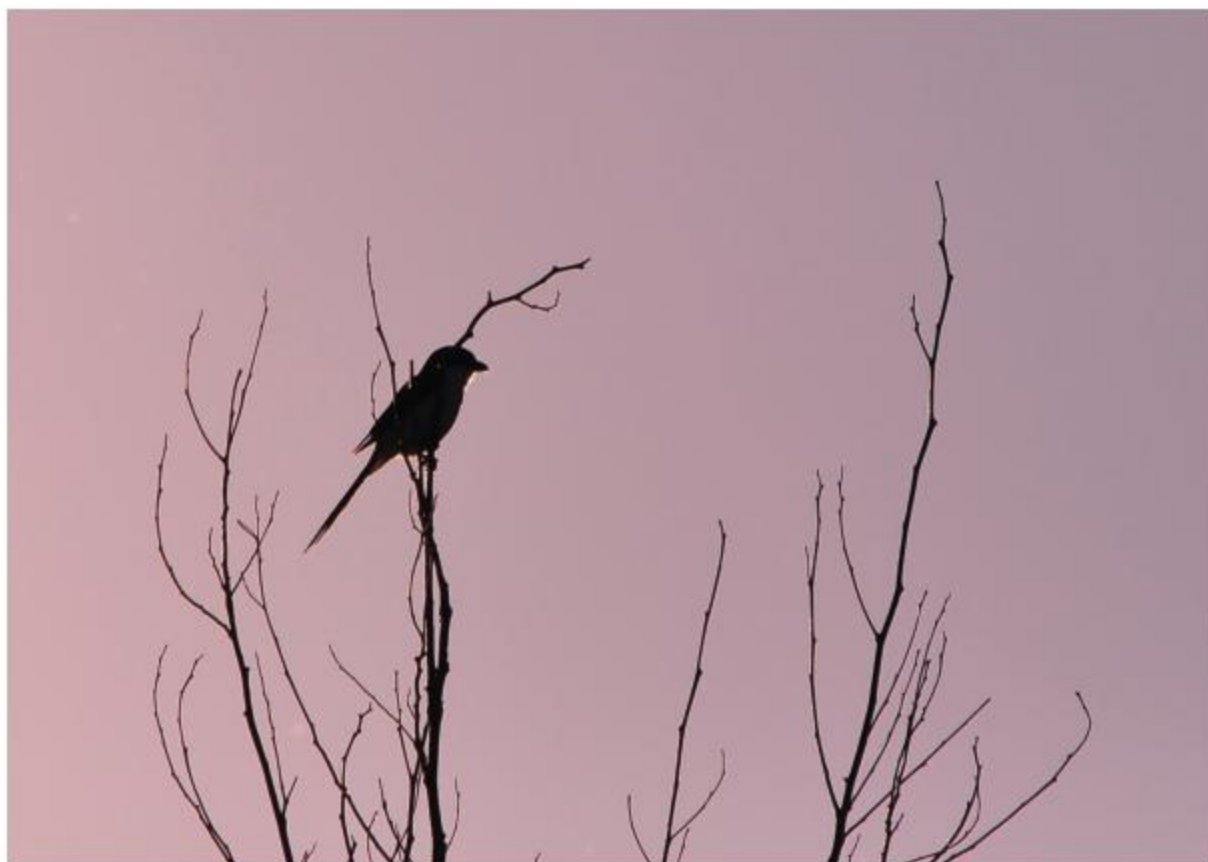
Dunelm Hiking Trail

These relatively new trails have already been explored by some guests. There are several rock sketches along the way and rock pools to cool off after a day’s walk. You can pack a picnic basket and enjoy lunch in the shade of an overhang. You can feast your eyes on the seemingly endless horizon. Bring your wine and toast a magnificent sunset.

A most interesting aspect of this trail is that it passes the Surrender Hill battlefield where the last battle was fought before the Boers surrendered to the British on 28 July 1900. Though many feet have crossed here few people know the historical importance of this specific battlefield.

An important feature of Dunelm Guestfarm is that they are one of only a rare few who welcome day visitors. Although accommodation here is luxurious and comfortable, you can drive out along the scenic route just to hike or fly-fish. It is the most inexpensive way to wander the grassy plains of the Eastern Free State. And along the way you might even come across some of the many different species of game that share the fresh mountain air with you.

There are burchell, zebra, eland, waterbuck, nyala, and smaller antelope such as duiker and rhebuck. Birdlife also is alive and well on the plains and in the small breaks and crevices of the sandstone cliffs that line the valleys. You might just get lucky to spot a jackal bird in its quest to rid the area of mice and other rodents that scurry about in the veld. Or a butcher's bird spying the area perched on the highest branches of a shrub.



Contact Maretha at 084 209 2091

Lesoba Hiking Trail (25km from Clarens)

Photographers in general and Noel Hutton in particular, regard Lesoba as unrivalled photographic splendour.

Lesoba is the Sotho word for hole. Due to eroded sandstone a gap opened in a rocky outcrop which prompted the name. One of the hiking trails at Lesoba winds its way up the mountain diverges round this legendary rock formation that emulates a window in the yellow cliffs and pans out further to the top. A unique feature here is camping facilities and is the only venue adjoining the R711 to offer this.

There are two day trails from the central base camp plus a short nature trail that follows a stream for about 2,5km through riverine bush. It crosses a stream and contours past the Queen Victoria rock formation. Once on top you can appraise the amazing image of the valleys of the Eastern Free State elongating far below.



Photo by Noel Hutton

The trail accommodates twelve hikers and bedding can be supplied as an optional extra. A well-equipped communal kitchen is available for hikers and a modern ablution block.

Contact Rolé Mans at 058 223 0444.

Tourist attractions are dotted all over the region starting in Clarens at the art trail, going on to the Beer trail at Main Street, popping in at all the little shops that line the streets and on to the Adventure Park for almost every exciting thing to do except horse-riding.

To get into a saddle, you need to go to either Bokpoort or Bergwoning.

Bokpoort (5 km from Clarens)

This hideaway is sheltered by rolling green valleys in the foothills of the spectacular Maluti Mountains. It offers an escape for the wild at heart wanting to experience horse-riding in all its roughness, exploring the countryside with a strong Appaloosa under the saddle, wind-swept plains and the day ahead.

Something for everyone is available, ranging from children, experienced and inexperienced outdoor adventures and outrides, specializing in horseback activities for over 18 years.

This unique breakaway adventure farm brings the rusty and plain uniquely to every guest. Even local individuals experience the simple but extraordinary at Bokpoort.

The farm offers various accommodation options from camping to backpack to comfortable chalets.

Here is your chance to rough it and let the mind, body and spirit run free against the backdrop of sweeping mountains and deep valleys.

Contact Helena Roos at 083 744 4245

Lake Clarens Guest House



082 551 3248

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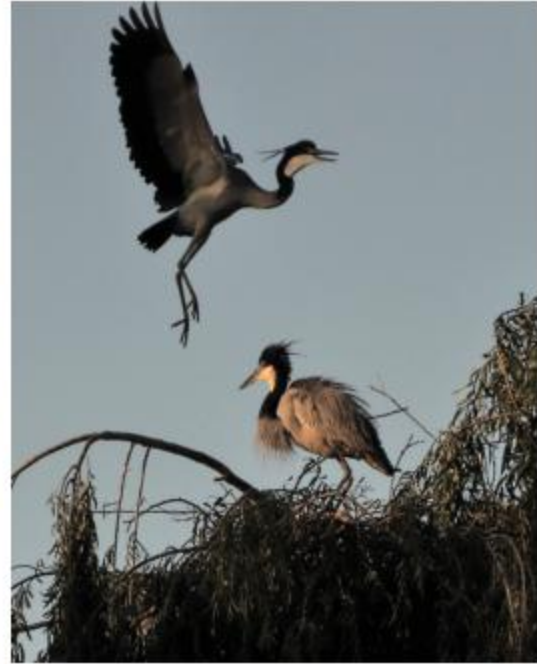
058 256 1436



058 256 1283



Emden Bass Fouriesburg



Birds at Emden

Angling in Eastern waters

When it comes to fishing, the Eastern Free State is saturated with options from small dams to fairly large and from trout to bass to carp. Most dams, though, are rather low after a very dry season.

Once again, there really aren't many opportunities for day visitors in the Eastern Free State however Dunelm Guestfarm welcomes day visitors to fly-fish at the beautiful dam close at the entrance to the farm. Once again, they can bring their picnic baskets and just enjoy the tranquil waters while trying their hand at the rainbow trout.

Contact Maretha at 084 209 2091

For the Bass enthusiasts there is Emden. This beautiful lake is situated near Fouriesburg and facilities were recently boosted with a facelift. Camping is available as well as day fishers. Set in the beautiful mountains that surround Fouriesburg, even the trip there through valleys and farmland, is worth the time.

Once again, a picnic basket and blanket next to tranquil waters where waterfowl dive to catch and a natural slippery slide for the children, Emden is an unexplored gem.

Contact Emden Bass at 082 334 45910



Clarens Centenary awakened nostalgia

- Amanda van Blerk

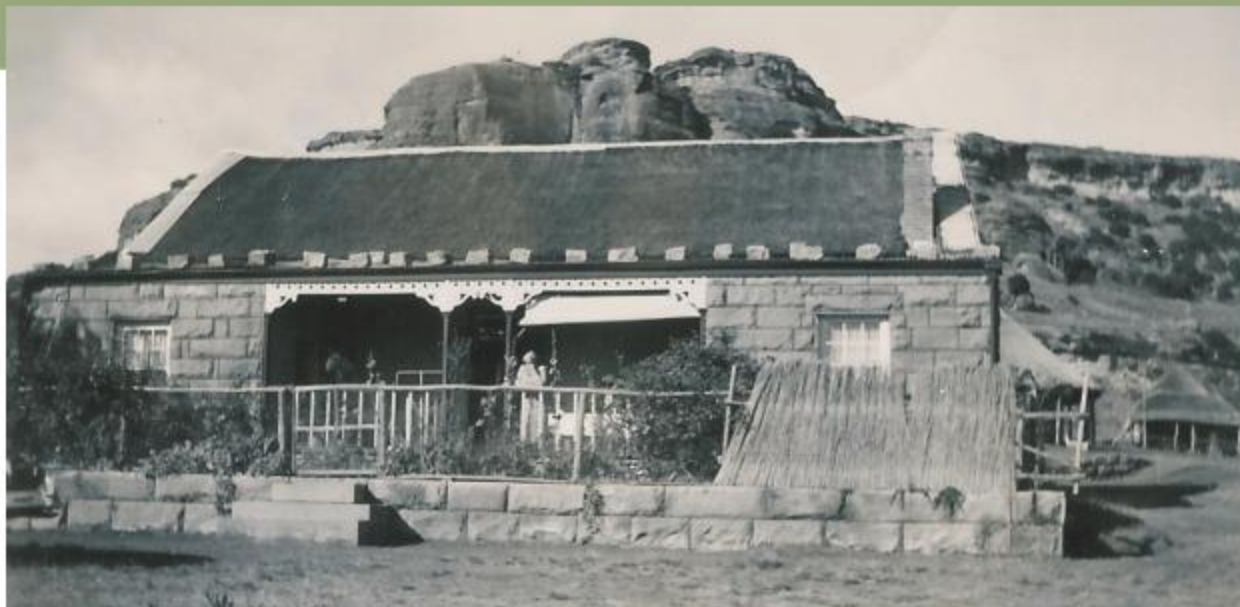
Schaapplaats is situated about five kilometres from Clarens and it belonged to Pamela's father. Dennis and Christine Walwyn procured it in the middle eighties and pioneered the Ashgar Connemara Horse Stud, which Charlotte Gouws is currently managing. The photo of the sandstone home was taken in 1951 (the house originally belonged to Maggie Sparks 'nee Liddell - Derrick's mother) and apart from the rocks on the roof, the house looks much the same today. Newly married Derrick Sparks and his young wife, Maureen, suffered hard times during the fifties (by his own account). After he had been appointed town clerk with a steady income, the veranda was closed in and the roof fixed and properly secured.

The photo though, is precious Africana and we thank Pamela for sharing it with us.

Another photo that Pamela sent was taken in 1962 from Schaapplaats to Mount Horeb. And just to illustrate the development of the region, she included a photograph that was taken on a recent visit to Clarens.



Along with old photographs come sweet memories, as well as a touch of melancholy. When *InClarens's* Centenary edition hit the streets, it must have brought back many happy memories to many a past and present resident. Old pictures and narratives flowed in. Among the many emails were these photographs that Pamela Scott Dawkins née Sparks sent.



There are many treasurable moments and places in and around Clarens. Golden Gate undoubtedly is one of the most photographed spots in the Eastern Free State. Even before it was proclaimed a National Park, and long before digital photography made it so easy for us to take memorable photos, were people fascinated by the natural wonders that are found cuddling among the sandstone cliffs and vast grasslands.



Golden Gate Bridge



The photo of the Golden Gate Bridge is of enormous importance. *InClarens* is not sure who the ladies are but the bridge was struck by lightning and not many pictures of it exist.

Winter of the Clarens Centenary year, was bitterly cold and it snowed frequently. In August, Clarens experienced rather heavy falls and just to prove it is a regular occurrence, we include snow pictures that were shot over time.

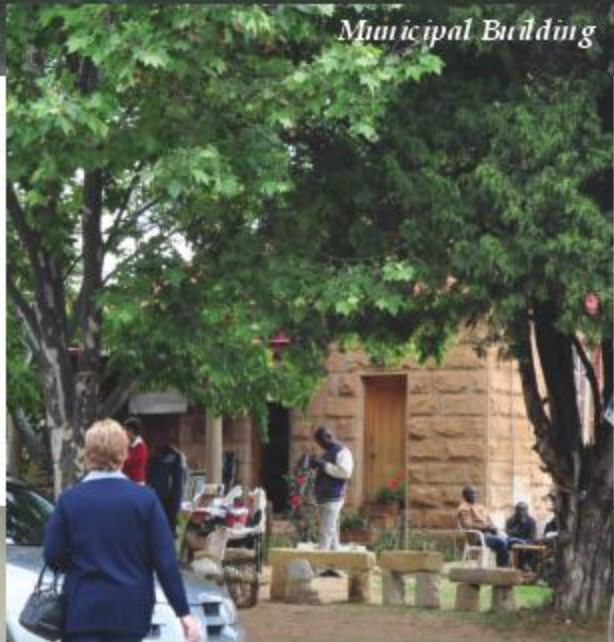
This picture shows the Clinic at the corner of Collett and le Roux streets. Maureen Sparks was the Nursing Sister.

Horeb Snow 1964





Office 1963



Municipal Building

The municipal office where Pamela's father did his daily duties features strongly in the Clarens of the sixties. It was more or less the hub of the town and everything was planned and orchestrated from here. Today the little sandstone building goes almost unnoticed amid all those that have been built since.



Municipal Office Museum 1964

1. Lake Clarens
2. Horeb Butchery
3. Rebellie Game farm
4. Brambleberry on the Golf Course
5. Artzone and InClarens
6. Clarens Interiors
7. Lilliput
8. Ash River Lodge
9. Yoga in Clarens

10. Mont D'Or
11. Maluti Lodge
12. Lazy Gecko

13. Highlands Coffee Roastery
14. Clarens Destinations
15. Post Office
16. Val du Charron
17. Richard Rennie Gallery & Art Workshop
18. Bon appetite
19. Mountain Odyssey
20. Byou Day Spa

Bethlehem

- Frontier Inn & Casino
- Bethlehem Karavane
- Priscillas Hairsalon
- Le Roy Outfitters
- Royal Terrace

Ashriver Outfall

Maluti Lodge

Clarens Hiking Trail

Lake Clarens Guesthouse

PROTEA HOTEL CLARENS

Town Square Monument

Motouleng Caves Heritage Site

Clarens





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

**Clarens Tourism
Forum**

- 21. The Blanket Shop
- 22. Bibliophile
- 23. Village Grocer
- 24. Fairview Gastehuis
- 25. Mona Lisa Garment Gallery
- 26. Tobias Art Gallery

**Golf & Trout
Estate**

4 Golf Club House

R712

R711

Horeb Street
Trans Calcedon Street
Titanic Street
To Fouriesburg

3

**BOKPOORT
GUEST FARM &
HORSERIDING**



**Golden Gate National Park
Basuto Cultural Village
Qwa Qwa
Harrismith** →



ST FORT COUNTRY HOUSE

Sandstone Farmhouse 1913

Dunelm
gastepaas
Selfsorgeenhede
Self catering units

**Surrender
Hill
Monument**

Mushroom Rock
Fouriesburg ↓

Oral tuis met Bethlehem Karavane

Momente van plesier kan opgegaan en saamgeneem word soos 'n skilpad in sy dop. En die dae van slakkepas-sleep met vierkantige windweerstandige-woonwaens, is natuurlik ook lankal verby. As jy net weet hoe, is heerlike, lang somervakansies wel nog moontlik, vertel Aniena Aber.

Daar is min tye wanneer 'n mens totaal en al vereenselwig is met die gang van jou lewe. Wanneer stilte en sterre verstrengel raak en reën herinneringe van vars geplukte aronskelke en sondeurdrenkte dae in koel waterpoele optower. Om jouself bynekaar te maak en weg te raak in wuiwende grasvelde of te probeer dans in warm sand.

Waarvan praat jy mens, waar op aarde kry mens die paradys? wil jy weet. En die antwoord is eenvoudig. Paradys is waar jy is. Waar jy kan bekostig om te wees. As dit in 'n luukse gastehuis of hotel is, is dit gaaf, maar om regtig die beste van luukse asook aardsheid te ervaar, gaan kuier jy onder sekelmane met 'n woonwa (as jy kan) of sommer met 'n tent. Met 'n vuurtjie en potjiekos of braaibroodjies soos koringskos op 'n Sondagaand. Om net te staar na die sonsondergang en te luister hoe honderde paddas roep. Klink dit soos die paradys?

Sou jy jou in die komplewe begewe, is daar natuurlik Bethlehem Karavane. Hulle sal jou met woord en daad bedien om jou eerste of honderdste kampervaring 'n groot sensasie te maak.

In Bethlehem se hoofstraat het Willie Hattingh 'n tafel vervolmaak wat op baie pote staan. Die kamptoerusting-poot word gehuisves binne-in die amperse historiese gebou. Willie se pa het vir baie jare hier 'n elektriesewarebesigheid bedryf. 'n Oudtydse klokke lui wanneer die deur oopgaan en binne ruik dit na kamp en seil, braavleis en kole. Jy wil net jou voertuig pak en laat waai.

Buite staan woonwaens in 'n ry. Van heinde en verre bring woonwa-eienaars hul doppe om gediens te word. Dis die diens-poot van Bethlehem Karavane. Met meer as twintig jaar ervaring in die bedryf, ken Willie die dienssy van 'n woonwa. As die wa gediens is, is hy reg vir uitspan langs die viswaters, see of dam.





Dan is daar die koketterige dames- poot van die besigheid. Snip- perige woonwaens - kompak maar luuks - word uitgestal in die stoor agter die frontwinkel. Splinternuut is hierdie ware gruislop- ers vanuit *Sprite* se stal. Hulle kan op teer loop, maar wie kamp nou waar daar net teer is? Hierdie karavaantjie is presies geskik vir die beste agterpaaie wat nie heeltemal viertrekpaaie is nie maar dan ook nie geteer is nie. Rats en beweeglik, maar taa.

En natuurlik hou Bethlehem Karavane allerhande onderdele aan. Daardie goeterhies wat jy nodig het om jou tent staan te maak of om 'n waterkan se lekkende gat te seel. En as die gas opraak, word die silinder gou hervul. Om deur die rakke te snuffel terwyl jy wag, laat die kampliggies lokkend flikker daar voor in die pad. As jy boonop èrens in die Oos-Vrystaat kamp of woonwa staan, is Paradys som- mer hier onder jou voete.



Bethlehem Karavane
058 303 5050
083 628 5066
bethlehemkaravane@isat.co.za

Kerkstraat 1A
Bethlehem
9701





BREAKFAST TO LAST A DAY

The one question that is most often asked when visiting Clarens is probably where to go for the next meal. Clarens features a host of excellent restaurants and when going further afield, there are even more to choose from. Deciding on the right one for the moment is like strolling through a culinary labyrinth. Mary-Ann Pickers had to make such a difficult decision.

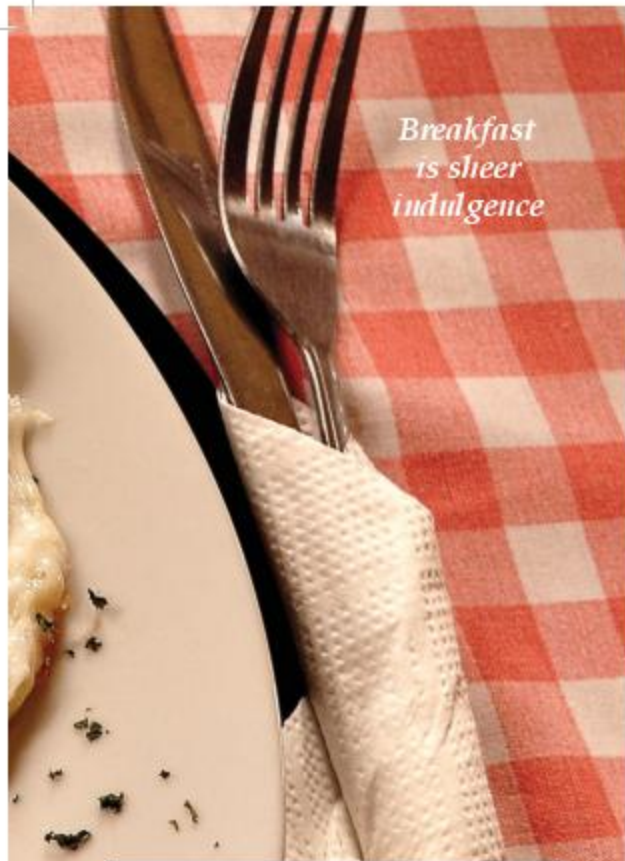
It certainly depends on the time of day. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will each call for a different choice and then of course you still have to decide exactly what you feel like, who is with you, what you are wearing, what you have planned for the rest of the day or for the next day...

In this case, the meal was breakfast and the eaters were really hungry with nothing planned for lunch and dinner was a far way off. We decided to take a drive out to the Koffie Pot at Bergwoning and

agreed that a breakfast here was an absolute must when visiting Clarens and the Eastern Free State.

There are other interesting things to do at Bergwoning but here and now we will stick to breakfast.

The Koffie Pot is reputedly simple and unassuming, but don't be fooled. They serve one of the best breakfasts this side of the Maloti Route. Needless to mention, it is set against the quiet backdrop



*Breakfast
is sheer
indulgence*

of the foothills of the Maluti Mountains, right next to the wondrous Golden Gate National Park. But the ladies in charge here kept it informal, rural and close to earth.

The ladies are Loezytha and Heima Maritz; and right-hand Masha Karaman. Loezytha keeps an overall eye and Masha is public relations and bookings officer at Bergwoning, but the little restaurant on the premises is Heima's pride and joy.

After finishing school, she took over the reins and re-decorated and put her hand to the everyday run of the eating place. She successfully improved the menu and interior. On our first visit some time before, the wonderful aroma of freshly baked muffins poured from the building. Conveniently postponing the diet, we ordered muffins; only to be told that they were still in the oven and that we would have to wait a few minutes.

Of course we agreed and when the muffins arrived they were accompanied by fresh cream and strawberry jam – perfect!

Upon our return for a proper breakfast, there was no holding back. The Koffie Pot, being situated on a farm, serves a breakfast fit for a farmer, a rancher and a king. It is sheer indulgence and a great way to start your day.

The service is intimate and personal, the food tasty and the setting peaceful and undisturbed. When in Clarens, take the picturesque route to Golden Gate and dwell a little at the Koffie Pot. Be it for breakfast, a light lunch or for the sweetness of chocolate cake. You'll always come back for more.

**Contact Heima on
082 396 7595**

**Or email them and order in
advance at
bergwoning@gmail.com**



Décor at the Koffie Pot.



*With a sign like this you
cannot get lost!*



Heima Maritz



IS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING OUTLETS

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Naval Hill Spar
Preller Square Spar
Meditas Spar
Friendly Bays Spar
Heuwelsig Spar
Emily Hobhouse Supermarket
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Safari 4x4

CLARENS

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The Blanketshop
Clarens Trading Store
Clarens Destinations
Horeb Kafee
Mountain Odyssey at Main Street
The Protea Hotel
The Purple Onion Deli
The Village Grocer
ArtZone and InClarens at Van Zyl Street
Bibliophile Bookstore
Highland Coffee Roastery

N3TC

Makiti Toerisme, Roadside
Montrose Toerisme
Woza Woza Info, Mooi Rivier
Nottingham Road, Info
Van Reenen Info
Pietermaritzburg Info
N3TC Roete Help Centre
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Bergville

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Moremart Spar Pretoria
Malanshof Kwikspar
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Total Petroport Heidelberg

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Kontreijwinkel,
Doherty Sentrum
Model Slaghuis
Die Plaasstoep
Jenlees
Fouriesburg Info Centre

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To learn from a master

This February sees the return of the successful art workshops by Richard Rennie. Not even a brutal attack on the 80 year old could discourage him from continuing what he does best. The art classes that have become synonym with Clarens at the start of each year will once again be held at the conference centre at the Ash River Lodge.

Richard Rennie recently turned 80 and Clarens community celebrated this special event at the Brambleberry Restaurant on the Golf Course. Friends from near and far joined in the celebration at this stylish venue, which was artistically decorated by a local interior decorator, Pieter van Niekerk.

The dinner was initiated by Johann and Anél Lehman of Ash River Lodge. They have a longstanding arrangement with Richard to host his annual workshops and have been dear friends of the celebrated artist for even longer.

Sharon Vallance, art dealer and an artist in her own right attended one of Richard's workshops. She has this to say on her website:

"Last week, I went with a group of artists (and friends) to Clarens on an art retreat, a workshop with water-colourist and landscape artist, Richard Rennie. What an awesome time was had! The camaraderie amongst not only artists, but women artists, is just really special. A matter of 'anything goes', there was no pressure to be or do anything other than what's good for you. Lots of good food, walks, long talks into the night, laughing till we cried, hugs, shared interests - all made those few days so memorable.

"Richard showed us a very loose technique that he uses in his paintings. He's as comfortable with his messed-up paintbrushes as we are breathing! Almost without any thought (and absolutely no cleaning of brushes), he goes about applying his colours in just the right places and quantities. I was fascinated. He taught us to move from dark, down to off-centre lighter tones, down to dark at the bottom. There should be a darker focal point in the middle (or rather, centre of your subject matter) to draw the eye in. It all made sense, and although my style is nowhere close to his, I learned so much."



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Clarens

ready for any medical complaint

Clarens's newest medical assistance in the Clarens Pharmacy. Dr Lucille Steynberg, and pharmacist Benita Jouker seen here with the pharmacy assistant Aaron Kalenga.



Clarens has a new medical centre in time for the holiday season, and this means that visitors and residents can have their routine and emergency requirements seen to without leaving town, writes Mary-Ann Pickers from the youngest development in Clarens.

Various local parties have collaborated to extend the medical services in Clarens at a conformed Medical Centre on Main Street. The Paballo nursing sisters have always been available to see to ailments and emergencies. They now conveniently share the Centre at spanking new quarters.

After the previous doctor had retired, Clarens was dependent on the sisters who do outstanding work, but for more serious illnesses they had no dedicated medical practitioner for reference. Visitors to Clarens were always at a loss as to where to go for treatment but with the new Centre, all medicine related queries can be attended to right on the spot.

While Sisters Henriette Hohne and Marie-Antoinette Earle offer their services throughout the week and on an on-call basis on Sundays and public holidays, a medical practitioner now visits twice a week and is available for emergencies in Bethlehem.

Originally from the Goldfields, Dr Lucille Steynberg studied at the University of Pretoria. She moved to KZN where she worked as intern for eight years. Four years ago she accompanied her husband to the Eastern Free State. She has two daughters and finds the Clarens surgery an undisturbed place to work.

But the good news does not end there. A physiotherapist also visits three times a week.

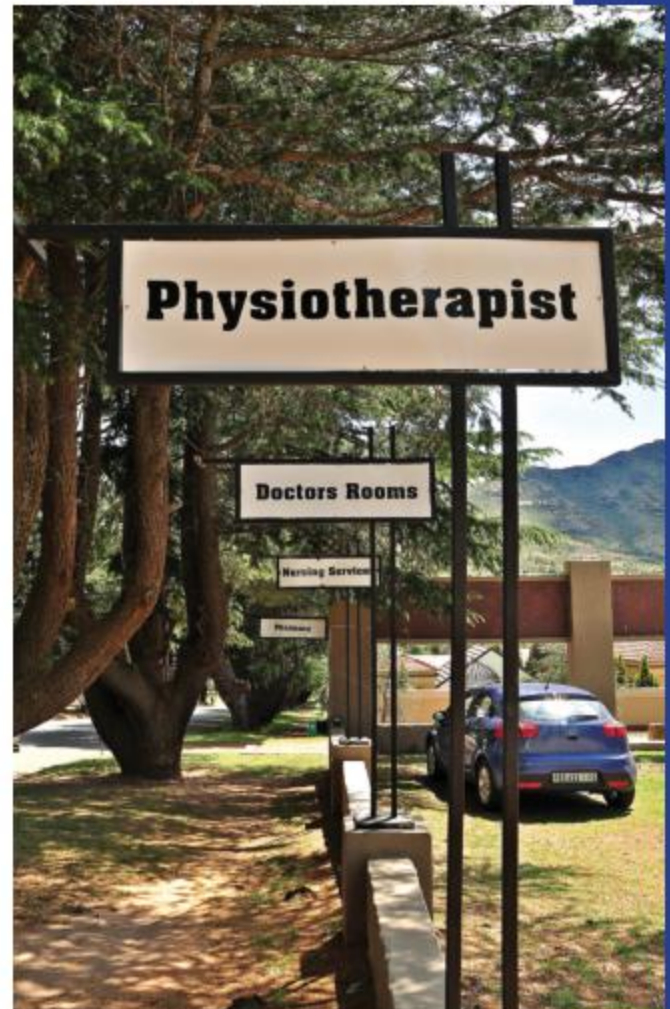
Anne-Marie Ackerman aims for excellence. She studied at the University of the Free State and visits on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. But she is on stand-by for emergencies too.

Her post graduate qualification includes "Orthopaedic Manual and Manipulative Physiotherapy" as well as "Dry Needle/Acupuncture." At the centre she treats various sports injuries such as neck and back pain, whiplash, muscular pain, headaches, respiratory disorders and ligament injuries. She does paediatric conditions and shoulder, knee and ankle pain.

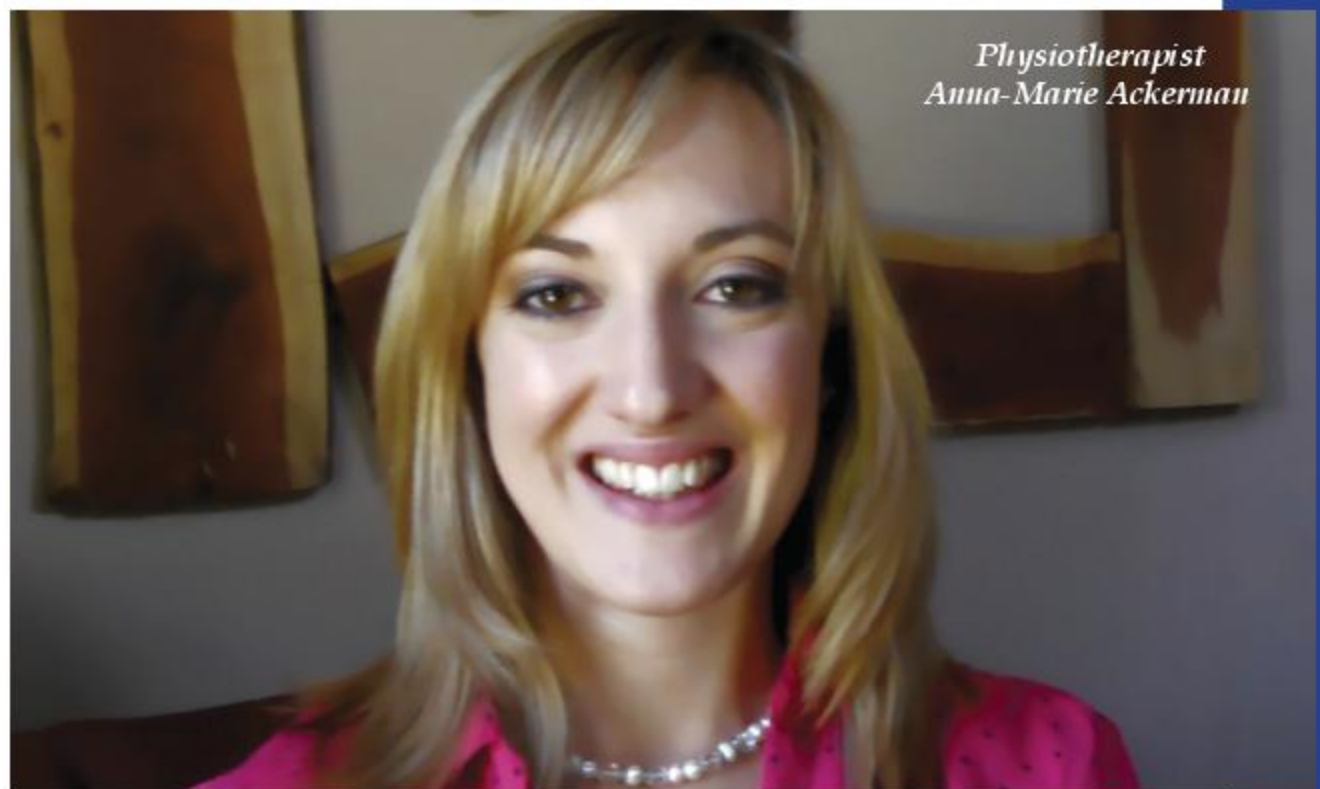
And to top the good news for locals and visitors alike, Clarens Pharmacy shares the premises. Berita Jonker is Clarens's resident pharmacist. This young mother traded Bethlehem for Clarens and like the others, she finds the tranquil town the ultimate place to earn a living. Berita studied at North West University, Potchefstroom campus.

Clarens Pharmacy specialises in prescriptions and chronic medicine but stocks a new cosmetic range, handbags, sunglasses, jewellery, watches, reading glasses and Tanzanian imported flip flops. A local also sells affordable barb wire art.

The pharmacy is open 7 days a week.



Nestling in the shade of the enormous Cedar Trees, is Clarens's Medical Centre.



*Physiotherapist
Anna-Marie Ackerman*



*Lessons to be
learned
from photographic
competition*

An example of Noel Hutton's work shows the use of light in photographing one of the landmark sandstone outcrops in the Eastern Free State.

Neil Hutton, a judge in the recent photographic competition of the Fouriesburg Forum, shares his observations, as well as some sound advice.

I had the privilege of being asked to judge the Fouriesburg Forum Landscape Photographic Competition in late September. The theme for the competition was a fairly broad one, that being: Landscapes. This had me both intrigued and a little worried all at the same time. I was naturally intrigued to see what the submissions for the competition were, being an enthusiastic landscape photographer, but worried that my judging would not do justice to the quality of the photographs entered.

I was very impressed with the number and variety of images that were presented. Some bent the rules as to the accepted definition of a landscape photograph. However, most of the images were well composed and visualised proper landscapes, and my ultimate brief of choosing a winner was far from a simple task.

Eventually the list was whittled to five potential winners, of which the best emerged once I had applied several criteria to each. This image not only stood out as a landscape photograph, but also successfully broke the rules that tend to encumber photography as a whole. The image is of a quiver tree at the Fish River Canyon, photographed in low light using a small amount of supplementary artificial light. The balance between ambient and man-made light is exquisite and the entire frame comprises a well harmonised exposure. However, the subtlety of the light is countered by the aggressive positioning of the main subject, which is dead centred. As mentioned, this breaks rules with impunity, and really emphasised the position of the tree

relative to the canyon in the background. This, in my opinion, really confirmed the image as the winner.

The essence of this article is not to extol the merits of the successful photographs that were entered into the competition, but rather to examine the errors and failings of those images that didn't make the final cut. In particular, how the light that was on hand was utilised in both exposure and composition of the photographs submitted.

I noticed that many of the photographs contained very bland skies. These tended to both detract from the foregrounds, as well as impinge on the quality of the exposures. Time of day and quality of the light were the main contributing factors.

In terms of the former, naturally diffused light of early morning and late afternoon tends to make skies that more photogenic. However, the in-camera metering will remain confused and try to average out the difference in exposure between foreground and sky. If there is a large difference between the two, either sky or foreground, neither will be correctly exposed and the image will suffer. There are certain filters that can and do help. Polarising and graduated filtration assists when used correctly. It still remains the choice of the photographer to decide which element is more important and to make sure that the exposure is correct for that image. In many instances, it is prudent to take two or more photographs with a variety of exposures, where each element is correctly metered.

In terms of the latter, there needs to be an explanation of "quality of light". There is no such

thing as "bad light". All that there is, is light. How the photographer utilises it will determine whether a successful image is made or not. A rough rule of thumb is that the lower the level of light, the longer the lens should be used. This implies that with decreasing contrast/intensity, an increasing focal length should be employed; whereas, if the sun is out and there is bountiful colour and contrast, a wider angle lens is best. I tend to subscribe to this, particularly the former.

A telephoto lens has the abilities to isolate elements within an image, both in terms of depth of field as well as by cropping out extraneous and unwanted parts of the landscape that would detract from the image. I will default to a telephoto lens in many instances due to these reasons, whether or not the light is "good". For "good" light, wider lenses have the added advantage of benefitting from the use and effects of filtration. However, they can also exacerbate poor filtration technique. I will not elaborate on this subject; it will take far too long and will in all likelihood be the subject of another article. Suffice to state that filtration should only enhance an image, not change it.

Returning to the matter of how to handle bland skies, a common mistake is to see the photograph through the viewfinder with one's eyes only. This sounds a little Irish. The most sophisticated internal metering cannot compare to the

sensitivity of the human eye, and what is seen as a well balanced image is often rendered less so once the image is taken. My advice, if a poor sky is foreseen, is to eliminate as much as possible, if not the entirety. However, if the sky is the key element and a silhouette is one's goal, then to correctly expose the sky is paramount. Another rule of thumb is to underexpose the sky. This will ensure as much detail as possible is captured and that there is no detail in the silhouette. Certain landscape elements lend themselves very well to silhouettes; in particular the rugged horizons that the Eastern Freestate is renowned for are excellent examples.

In conclusion, a number of the images that were submitted for the competition that suffered as a result of bland skies could have been improved significantly. Judicious in-camera cropping, as well as determining the most appropriate exposure for the image as a whole (in combination, if required, with effective filtration) would have ensured this. Finally, one does have access to the wonderful world of post production manipulation. There is a vast (and often bewildering) array of manipulation and enhancement suites and programs available. However, it is my opinion that a well seen and captured image (in-camera) will always be superior to that which is manipulated to reach the same level of perceived quality.

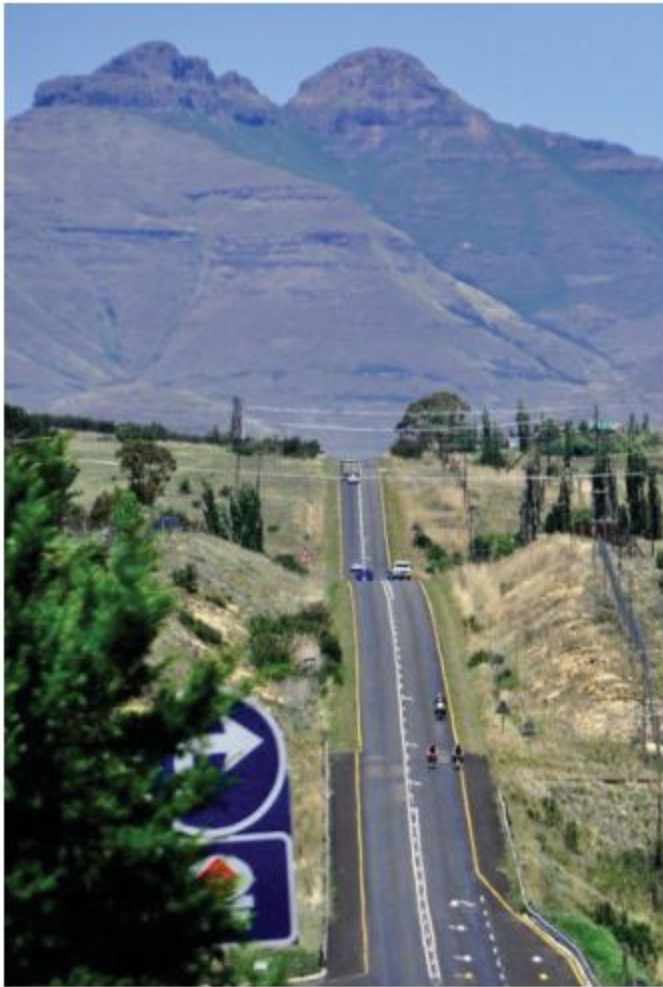


Runners up are *The Titanic* by Vanessa Coetzee, *Western Cape Landscape* by Kieta Weyer and *Cosmos* by Marina Pierneef.





Hulle kom van ver af... Die Working on Fire troepe vat die pas al singende die bult uit.



Clarens verwelkom julle terug. Baie geluk Charles en Quintin.



Ons lag maar ons harte huil.



Hartseer by die Vreugde - vir Pa

Asof dit so bestel was, breek die perfekte dag aan vir die Beukes-broers om terug te keer huis toe. Na agt emosionele maande van fietstrap deur Afrika se stouwerigste stofstrate en natste modder, val 'n heldeontvangs hulle te beurt toe hulle die ingang na Clarens bereik, skryf Amanda van Elerk.

Dit was pynlik om die botsende emosies te moet aanskou. Daar was baie tranes van die jongmans maar van die toeskouers en verwelkomsers ook.

Andries Beukes het sy seuns aangemoedig om avontuurlik te wees. Toe Charles en Quintin met die voorstel kom om Afrika op fietse aan te durf, was Andries supertrots. Wat gaan Ma sê, wou hulle weet, min wetende dat Ma op die ou end hul draer en motiveerder sou wees. Andries het geknipoo en gesê: "Los julle ma vir my."

Hulle het vroeg Maart vertrek, afgeklim op Kairo-lughawe, Quintin 18 en Charles 19 en pas klaar met skool. Quintin sal sy matriekjaar klaarmaak wanneer hulle terugkeer. Maar nou was dit self plan maak op 'n besige Kairo-lughawe.

Uiteindelik kon die buitestaanders die nuus van hulle vordering op Facebook lees. Foto's en nogmaals foto's is gelaai en hulle het net geglimlag. Van die minder goeie het die publiek daar buite nie gehoor nie. Al trappende het hulle die ysigs te winter in die Oos-Vrystaat ontglip. Of amper het hulle dit reggekry. Op 10 Julie 2012 word hulle in hul spore gestuit. Hul getrouste ondersteuner en lewenslange vriend, Andries is oorlede. Dat hy ook hulle pa was, is blote toeval. Hulle het dadelik teruggekom Suid-Afrika toe om vir ma Phoebe by te staan maar sy sit haar voet neer en ná

die begrafnis, vlieg hulle terug Tanzanië toe om met die avontuur deur te druk.

Soos hul terugkoms genader het, het Phoebe se hart ligter geword. Te alle tye het sy haar seuns ondersteun. Voor en ná haar eggenote se heengaan, maar hulle bly haar seuns en haar hart het telkens swaar geklop wanneer hulle teespoed gehad het. Menige teespoed het hulle nie met haar gedeel nie om haar las te verlig. En Phoebe het haar hart gestort in die reelings om hul tuiskoms te vier. Die spreekwoordelike gemeste kalf is voorberei. Weliswaar nie om dieselfde rede as in die Bybelse tyd nie, maar net so goed deur die vaardige Francois van Horeb Slaghuis.

Op Saterdag 17 November 2012 lê hulle die laaste kilometers af en kry 'n heldeontvangs in Clarens. Die pers en ander stoei vir die beste posisie om hulle aankoms vas te

lê en die Working on Fire-troepe kom in pas. Hulle sonore stemme klink Afrika-diep toe hulle die pas aangee voor die twee fietse uit.

Vreugdevure brand hoog, lag en dans, familie, vriende, Charles en Quintin, almal is vrolik maar in hul harte ween dit vir hom wat nie daar is in vlees nie. Hulle het dit gedoen. Hulle het klaargemaak soos wat hy dit wou gehad het en soos wat hy dit selfs sou doen. Hulle het Afrika hul eie gemaak en teruggekom om die trofee aan Clarens se voete te lê. En aan Andries s'n.



Die perdekaretjie vertel 'n storie

Tweewiel-, tweeperdekrag-treppies, spaaiders of bakkies, was die BMW se gelyke in die jare 1800 totdat Henry Ford die wiele anders laat draai het. In daardie tyd het bekende wamakers, die Deas-broers hulle vanaf Skotland in die eertydse Kaapkolonie gevestig. Hulle het hulle as wamakers bekwaam en hulle eie besigheid in Oudshoorn begin.

Op 28 Mei 1879 adverteer die broers in die *Oudtshoorn Courant* dat hulle spesialiseer in *Wagen, Kar, Spider, Tuigen, Zadel en Schoenmakers*.

Die beste advertensie was egter die karretjies self en die broers skryf dan ook hulle meesterstukke in by elke moontlike skou. Hulle wen goue medaljes oraloor maar slegs 'n silwer op die Oudtshoorn-landbouskou van 13 Mei 1891. Die beoordelaars was Alex Young, R Cole (Oudtshoorn) en F Brink van Calitzdorp. Die goue medalje is aan Bob Paterson en Thomas Matchett toegeken. Paterson en Matchett het hulle opleiding by die Deas-broers gedoen en was baie bekwaam, maar die Deas-broers het gemeen dat hulle benadeel is deurdat een van die beoordelaars by Paterson en Matchett gewerk het.

In 1900 ontbind die broers Deas se onderneming en word een broer, William gekies om as beoordelaar op te tree by 'n landbouskou in 1912 met die einste Robert Paterson as mede-beoordelaar!

Na die ontbinding van die onderneming bou James Deas 'n karretjie waarmee hy eerste prys op die landbouskou van 1911 gekry het. Die "spaaider" is later in 'n



weekblad geadverteer en oud-president M. T. Steynse weduwee Rachel, het dit gekoop en Vrystaat toe gebring.

'n Ander karretjie wat deur James Deas se opposisie, Robert Paterson gebou is, het ook die pad Vrystaat toe gevolg en is lank nog as algemene vervoermiddel gebruik. Die eienaar van die karretjie het later 'n motor gekoop en die karretjie gebêre vir kerk toe en so meer. Twee geleerde Fries-perde is aangehou om die karretjie met high days en holidays te trek.

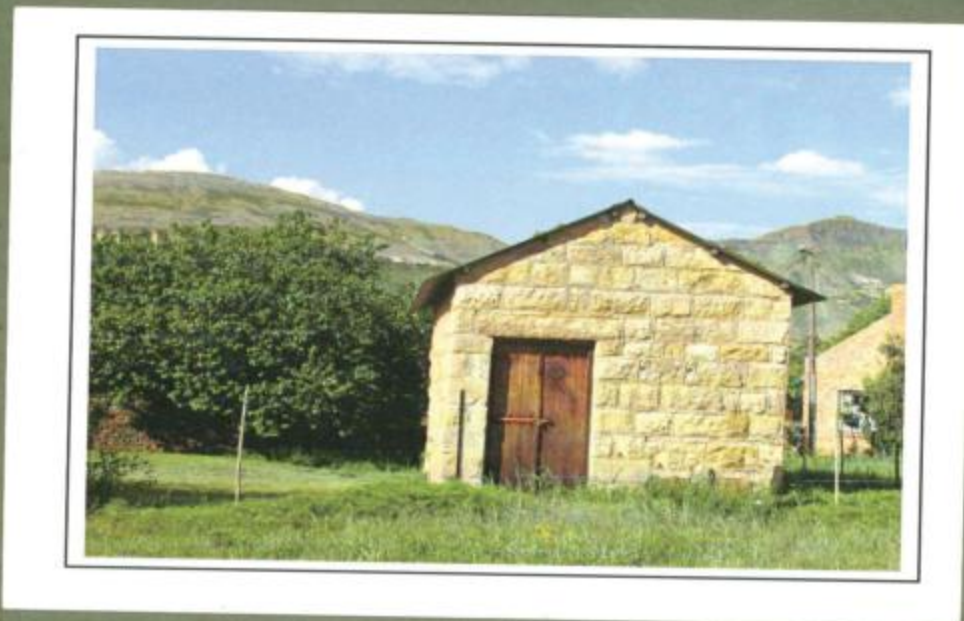
Toe gebeur die onvoorsiene. Die eienaar staan borg vir sy oudste seun. Die eerste wat toe moes gaan om die skuld te betaal is daardie einste karretjie met die twee geleerde perde.

Daar word vertel dat toe die koper kom om die karretjie te haal, die groot eienaar net 'n paar minute alleen gevra het voordat die nuwe eienaar vertrek. En daar het die groot man sy voorkop teen die bruin leer gedruk en gehuil oor sy swart perde en karretjie en sy oudste seun.

Sedertdien het Blackie Swart van Bethlehem die karretjie bekom, nuwe swart Friesperde geleer om te trek en doen die karretjie gereeld diens as troukar of, soos met Clarens se Eufeesevieringe, om die burgemeester van Clarens in Montreaux, Switserland, in die strate van die Vrystaatse Clarens rond te neem.



Geslagte kom en gaan - die huisie bly staan



'n Foto van die sandsteengebontjie wat deur Albert op die ondertekende dokument aangebring is. Hulle kon tot datum nog nie vasstel wat die dokument behels het nie anders as dat beide HB Pieters se handtekeninge daarop verskyn.

A. B. Swart	J. P. B. Myburgh jr
M. van Zyl	J. J. Myburgh
P. K. Rietman	J. L. Myburgh
J. P. Pieters	J. van Gassen
J. P. van Zyl	C. B. Bosch
Bruin Zyl	D. J. Bosh
J. J. v. d. Berg	H. J. Smith
G. v. d. Merwe	W. P. Denham
Brandt	G. J. Strydom
K. K. Brandt	J. M. van der Merwe
H. P. Pieters	K. M. Collett
A. M. Miller	J. G. Brown
J. J. v. d. Berg	
V. J. G. van der Merwe	

Dit was die Pieters in die plaasnaam Pietersdal wat Albert van Wyk se gedagtes laat dwaal het na tye toe dinge anders was - dit maak nie saak dat Pietersdal en Albert se Pieterses oënskynlik niks met mekaar te make nie. Wat saak maak is dat die Eeufeesuitgawe van InClarens weer baie lesers aan die skryf gesit het om van hul verlange na vroeër en dalk beter tye te vertel.

Albert het ook foto's gestuur, waardevolle geskiedenis wat Clarens op 'n heel ander manier beskryf. Maar ons moet begin by die begin. In hierdie geval begin dit by Hermanus Bernardus Pieters (1863-1943) wat, volgens oorlewering, êrens in Clarens begrawe is maar sy graf is nog nie opgespoor nie. Bes moontlik is hy in Naauwpoortse nek se verweerde begraafplaas begrawe. Hy koop 'n stukkie erf in Van Zylstraat, Clarens, waarop 'n klipgeboutjie opgerig word. Na raming moes die gebou hier in die laat dertigs of vroeë veertigs gebou gewees het en is moontlik ook deur die nou reeds bekende "Dowe Gert" van Zyl gebou. Of Hermanus die gebou of net 'n kaal erf gekoop het, is nie seker nie maar die transaksie beloop vyftig pond. Dit is alombekend dat die gebou diens gedoen het as slaghuis en of bakkerij. Hermanus bemaak die geboutjie aan sy seun, ook HB (1889-1963). HB Pieters trou in 1909 met Christina Johanna Sophia Vorster, 'n dogter van Harrismit. Sy is vyf jaar ná hom in 1968 aan hoë bloeddruk en hartkwaal oorlede en word in Potchefstroom begrawe. Sy laat erf nommer 345 in Van Zylstraat, Clarens na.

Hermanus en Christina se dogter Aletta (Lettie) is in 1926 in Clarens gebore. Bes moontlik in dieselfde geboutjie in Van Zylstraat. Sy en haar broer David was die enigste oorlewendes van die familie totdat Dav (foto) soos hy bekend gestaan het, verlede jaar oorlede is. Sy was getroud met Albert van Wyk sr. en hul seun Albert het die brief gestuur.

Lettie vertel dat hulle destyds Johannesburg toe getrek het maar dat Dav om een of ander rede moes agterbly. Hy is deur die getroue huishulp versorg totdat hulle hom kon kom haal en hulle spreek die versugting om die bediende weer te ontmoet indien sy nog leef.

Gedurende die 1990's word die erf verkoop en weer in 2007 toe dit die prys van R1,8 miljoen behaal het. So is die vooruitgang, maar in 1912 kon vyftig pond seker amper net soveel koop as R1,8 miljoen in 2007.

Die Pieters-nageslag doen Clarens gereeld aan en HB se kleinseun wat die slaghuisgebou geërf en in die jare negentig verkoop het, besoek Clarens jaarliks met die Steelwings-motorfietsaantrek in November.



Suster Lettie en haar broer Dav Pieters vroeër van Clarens

So verander die tye, van ossewa en erfie in Van Zylstraat tot bulderende blink motorfiets op die Clarens meent, maar met altyd heimwee na tye wat was.



Which Bruce did what?

There is no getting away from it. Bruce Weyer is still the most controversial person in Clarens but the fact that InClarens got the two Bruce's mixed up, most certainly cannot be attributed to him. He can never be that controversial!

When asked who built Lake Clarens Guesthouse, Kieta replied without hesitation, Bruce Marx. There cannot be any doubt as to who built Lake Clarens. It definitely was Bruce Marx because he is the best. But the simple reply did not avert the cascade of confusion that ensued.

Bruce Marx is a builder of note. He built many of the most spectacular buildings in Clarens and many people commissioned Bruce Marx to build their dream home. In this instance, however, the project was not commissioned by Bruce Weyer as was reported, but Bruce

Marx was the owner at the time. What added to the puzzle was that Bruce Weyer's wife Kieta was the architectural technologist who was commissioned by Bruce and Debbie Marx to draw up the plans for their guest house. A whole misunderstanding as to who commissioned whom!

Just to set the record straight Bruce and wife Debbie Marx bought the property and decided to renovate and change the home into a guesthouse. It was they who consulted and agreed with the neighbours about the lake, which in the end proved to be a real asset to the town.

All Bruce Weyer did was to enhance an already magnificent and beautiful sandstone guesthouse.

Apologies to all concerned.





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