



GRASSHOPPER COUNTRY  
*The Great Brak River  
 Museum News Letter*

2 Amy Searle Street  
 Great Brak River

May 2010

Phone 044-620-3338

Fax 044-620-3176

Email:

[gbrmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:gbrmuseum@gmail.com)

[www.greatbrakriver.co.za](http://www.greatbrakriver.co.za)

Editor Rene' de Kock

*Dear Museum Friends*

*Issue 5 of 2010*

The new little theatre in Great Brak River has been underway for some time often producing the unusual.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April it featured 'Nostalgia

**Unplugged'** with Lesley Rae Dowling. Lesley who is a house owner in Great Brak River (Westbank) presented an evening of some of her favourite songs and music on piano. Remember the Spaniard, Unravished Brides etc. Monies collected were for the Great Brak River Museum for new curtains.



*The museum would like to thank both the Theatre and Lesley Rae for the very welcome donation.*

The theatre also puts on Academy Award movies in the art gallery. As these movies are often at the month end, we are not able

to advise details in advance. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Dries at 0825585244 for details. Wine and snacks for sale.



The Great Brak River Museum is having their AGM on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 2.30 pm at the museum in Amy Searle Street.

Members and friends welcome.

Tea will be served after the meeting.

We have recently become a PBO (Public Benefit Organisation) which requires a revision to the constitution. Details will be advised and members will be asked to accept the change. In addition it is proposed that membership funds for the 2010/2011 year be increased: single members: R 30.00, Family membership, R40.00 and for the new email letter sent by post, membership R 75.00.

With your membership, you receive a free email copy of the Museum's monthly emailed news letter and a 10% discount on all functions, teas and visits arranged by the museum.

The Museum is open from Monday – Friday between 9 am and 4 pm. and on Saturdays between 9.30 am and 12 Noon

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry reports that during the fourth week in April 2010, our **Wolwedans** dam is **27.50%** full. The bottom 12% layer is presently not suitable for purification.

**THE NEXT CRITICAL LEVEL IS 25.0%.**

**PLEASE SAVE WATER**



**Great Brak River's Wolwedans dam wall.**

The only other dam of importance in the Wolwedans catchment area is the very small Ernest Robertson dam which due to the light rain is 80.00% full.

**MUSEUM AGM  
 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010  
 2.30 pm at  
 2 Amy Searle  
 Street**

The public participation meeting in Great Brak River held on the 15<sup>th</sup> April with the 'Formaplan' consultants and the Planning department officials was well attended and we look forward to receiving a comprehensive way forward for the village. Numerous maps were on display showing possible ways of solving various issues. No doubt a lot more consultation will be necessary to finalise the numerous ideas put forward but it plots a way to achieve social harmony.

Last month we published an invitation to join the Mossel Bay Heritage Society. If you have had difficulty in paying your subscription by bank transfer, the bank account details given to us were incorrect.

These should read  
Mossel Bay Heritage Society.  
Ned Bank  
Branch number 16905 (Marsh Street)  
Account number. **26890033009**

Recently the museum invited members of the "Groenkloof" retirement community to tea at the museum to provide details of the many services available at the museum and from the Greak Brak River information office.

**A second date has been organised for the "Groenkloof" ladies at which time the museum will provide a conducted tour through the museum and will highlight the history of our collection.**

**This is on May the 25<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 am.**

**Museum Services is having their annual workshop in Worcester from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**Hopes fund raising  
"Hands On" crafts  
workshop in May  
will be held at the  
Great Brak River  
Museum at 9.30  
am on Tuesday  
18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please call Hope de  
Kock on 044  
6205124 or 083  
378 1232  
for full details.**

During the past few months we have been placing some of the remaining photographs we received for last year's photo competition.

Another 2009 photo  
competition entry titled:

**Mainland from the Island  
by Vicky- Lynn Schermbrucker**



## Neighbouring Towns

*DID YOU KNOW?* Located some fiftysix kilometers west of *Mossel Bay*, Albertinia has one of the few sand golf courses in South Africa



*The magnificent three bridges over the Gourits river on the way to Albertinia. Bungee jumping is no longer available.*

Die dorpie **Albertinia** is net om die draai, maar dikwels weet mens min of niks van die geskiedenis van jou omringende dorpe nie.

Hier volg 'n kort opsomming van die geskiedenis van Albertinia.

**Reisigers wat op die N2 by Albertinia verbyspoed, kan gerus indraai en egte plattelandse rustigheid ervaar. Geen wonder die dorp se leuse is**

**“Ons hou van die landelike lewe” nie. Hierdie landelikheid loop soos 'n goue draad deur die dorp se geskiedenis.**

Albertinia het sy ontstaan aan die NG Kerk te danke. Met sy stigting in 1839 het die Riversdal-se gemeente uit die dorpe Riversdal, die latere Heidelberg, Ladismith, Vanwyksdorp en die gebied tot die Gouritsrivier, beslaan - 'n uitgestrekte gebied. Ds J R Albertyn predikant van 1883 tot 1892, beywer hom onsuksesvol om 'n kerkplaas in die oostelike deel van die gemeente aan te koop. Die Riversdalse kerkraad koop egter in 1898 'n deel van die plaas Grootfontein van die weduwee Anna Sophia Louwrens en begin die eerste erwe op 5 Julie 1899 verkoop. Hulle besluit ook om die te stig dorpie Albertinia te noem – ter ere van ds J R Albertyn.

Op 18 November 1902 word die dorp Albertinia amptelik gestig en word die eerste Dorpsbestuur ingestel. Op 18 Junie 1904 word die NG Kerkgebou ingewy en die gemeente gestig. Die dorp het geleidelik gegroei en in 1920 kry Albertinia munisipale status.

Die landelike geaardheid van die omgewing het sy invloed op die dorp uitgeoefen. Heelwat huise in die beginjare was dan ook tuishuise wat as oorblyplek gedien het tydens kerklike of ander belangrike geleenthede. Gedurende die eerste helfte van die twintigste eeu is daar in die distrik, met enkele uitsonderings, bestaansboerdery beoefen, wat beteken het dat die mense arm was. Dinge het baie verander na die Tweede Wêreldoorlog en dit het ontwikkeling vir Albertinia gedurende die tweede helfte van die twintigste eeu gebring. Nuwe tipes gereedskap en inplemente het in die distrik aangekom; 1947 was 'n besonder goeie koringjaar; en die wolprys het in 1950 die hoogte ingeskiet. Eksterne faktore soos die ontdekking van olie naby die kus en politieke veranderinge na 1994, het ook hulle merk op die dorp gelaat. In November 2000 het Albertinia deel van die nuwe Langeberg Munisipaliteit geword – nou Hessequa Munisipaliteit.

In die afgelope tyd het daar heelwat uitbreidings in Albertinia plaasgevind wat residensiële en nywerheidsgebiede aanbetref.

Albertinia het op sy tyd ereburgerskap aan twee persone toegeken naamlik aan oudburge-meester Petrus Johannes (Piet) Loubser (hy was ook LPR, LUK, lid van die Presidentsraad, en voorsitter van die Wes-Kaapse Streekdiensteraad) en die bekende langafstand Springbok-atleet Elana Meyer.

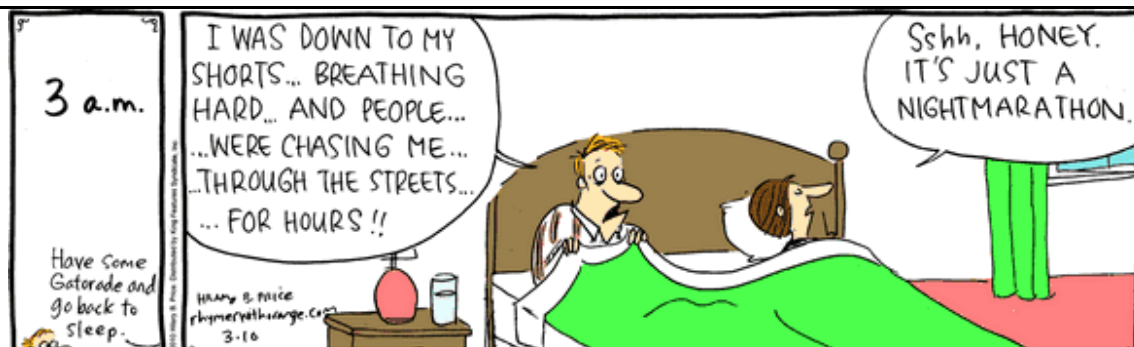
[Met dank en erkenning aan Albertina Toerisme.]



## What's on at the Great Brak River Museum this month?

Month & provisional date	Description	Supported by	Contact person
12 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Pre-owned book sale on the front lawn of the museum. Both English and Afrikaans books available from R3.00 each. Come and Join us for Tea &amp; Scones</b>	10.00 am onwards. For museum funds	The museum 044-620-3338
18 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>This year's Museum Day theme is SOCIAL HARMONY. The museum will be putting on a display of our ongoing research into the history of our local coloured people and there will be a joint Craft class with the ladies of Greenhaven.</b>	9.30 am onwards.	The museum 044-620-3338
19 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Great Brak River Museum Association's AGM. 2.30 pm at no 2 Amy Searle Street. Tea will be served.</b>	<b>2.30 pm</b>	The museum 044-620-3338
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>Heritage Walk (Churches) Refreshments R 40.00 per person (museum &amp; Heritage member discount applicable)</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	The museum 044-620-3338
25 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>'Groenkloof' Ladies to visit Museum for Tea and Tour R20.00 per person (member discount applicable)</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	The museum 044-620-3338

For more details on **what's on** in our area email Junita van Wyk with a request for their news letter: [shalom7@absamail.co.za](mailto:shalom7@absamail.co.za)



### THE GREAT BRAK RIVER CRAFT WORKSHOP.

**We are urgently looking for young unemployed persons to make Bead work panels.**

The museum will provide free training, will supply all necessary material and will pay for all work done.

Please phone Hope on 083-378-1232 for further information.

## TOURISM industry snippets

- New grading criteria for accommodation establishments in South Africa will be introduced in October 2010. The Tourism Grading Council released details of the plan after "extensive consultation with stakeholders". Mr. Marthinus van Schalkwyk, Minister of Tourism, has appointed a new awards committee under the chairmanship of one of South Africa's most respected hoteliers, Mr. Peter Bacon.
- Didi Moyle, chief operating officer of S A Tourism, will not renew her contract when it expires the end of May.

To all Local accommodation members of Mossel Bay Tourism.

Would you please provide the Great Brak River office with a laminated A4 illustration of your establishment providing salient features and accommodation rates.

Please contact Ina on 044-620-3338 should you require further details.

## NEW FOR GUESTHOUSES and B & B'S –

### A Mattress protector that keep mites out.

Protect-a-bed Super deluxe Mattress protector is now available in SA. The product offers protection from allergens, dust mites and bacteria as well as liquids and stains, ensuring a clean and hygienic mattress for guests.

Visit: [www.protectabed.com](http://www.protectabed.com)

### Duvets and pillow inners for hire to the hospitality industry:

Sanders South Africa, supplier of quality bedding items imported from Germany, has launched a new service. The service aims to provide the hospitality industry with flexible access to duvets & pillows during high occupancy and peak periods, with no initial investment. Rental options include 3, 6 & 12 months with duvets and pillows becoming the property of the establishment after a 12 month rental period.

Tel : 021 465 7961

E mail : [jr@sanders-southafrica.co.za](mailto:jr@sanders-southafrica.co.za)

Or visit: [www.sanders-southafrica.co.za](http://www.sanders-southafrica.co.za)

(Acknowledgment : Hotel & Restaurant)

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The current day Vineyard Hotel in Cape Town started out as Lady Anne Barnard's country house in 1799.
- The red-and-white striped Green Point lighthouse is the oldest solidly built lighthouse in the country. It was commissioned in 1924.
- The scenic fishing village on the False Bay coast was named Kalk (lime) after limes kilns were set up there in the 17 th century to produce lime for painting buildings.

## OUR NATURE CORNER

We had a flash hail storm in March. It was all over in 10 minutes but I was very pleased that I wasn't caught in the fields - some of the hailstones were the size of golf balls. Interestingly, they were a very irregular shape, as if they had been hacked off a large block of ice with an ice-pick.



A very colourful and welcome new inhabitant in the vegetable garden is this Banded Garden Spider, *Argiope trifasciata*. It is a cosmopolitan species and can be found resting head down on its vertical web amongst the grasses over most of southern Africa extending

northwards through Africa. The body is covered with tiny silvery setae (hairs) that point towards the head of the spider resulting in the shedding of rain as spiders always rest head downwards. It may even satisfy the spiders' water requirements. The tiny male only measures 4-5mm and is usually over-looked.



These Common Metallic Longhorns made an interesting wide-angle subject. They are particularly fond of the flowers of *Euphorbia mauritanica*.

The toktokkie beetle (this one is *Psammodes striatus*, the Striped Toktokkie) are a familiar sight around the country. Their common name comes from their behaviour of tapping out rhythms on the ground to locate and attract mates. They are ground-dwelling and flightless.



**PHOTO'S AND TEXT; SALLY ADAM**

## Shoe and Boot Manufacture

### The life and Sole of Great Brak River

Many of you may believe that it is not difficult to manufacture a shoe that is until you visit a factory such as Bolton's and see the many different moulds that are required to cover the multitude of styles, sizes and fits and the numerous machines necessary to do the many different procedures required for shoe and boot manufacture. A recent visit to the factory proved a real eye opener.

**Our guide PJ demonstrating to Nisde Mc Robert how an upper is stretched over the plastic shoe last or mould.**



The Great Brak River shoe factory started in 1886 when towards the end of the nineteenth century; leather shoes and boots became affordable to the masses. With the outbreak of World War I in



1914, the demand for large numbers of polished army boots led to a need in the market for a product that would allow boots to be polished quickly, efficiently and easily. The polish was also used to shine leather belts, handgun holsters, and horse tack. This demand led to a rapid increase in the sales of shoe and boot polish. The popularity of Kiwi shoe polish spread throughout the British Commonwealth and the United States. Rival brands began to emerge, including Shinola and Cavalier (United States), Cherry Blossom (United



Kingdom), Parwa (India), Jean Bart (France), and many others. Advertising became more prominent with many shoe polish brands used fictional figures or historical characters to spread awareness of their products.

**An 'upper' section with the different components sewn together (above).**

**'Clicker' Dies for different sizes of a specific shoe model.**

Shoe manufacturing had become improving in the mid-1800s allowed for factories to produce large amounts of shoes made of leather and later, synthetic materials. This increase in leather shoe production continued well into the 1900s and led to a surge



in the number of retail shoe stores in the industrialized world.



**An operator controlling a hydraulic 'clicking' press.**

Most conventional outdoor footwear consists of an upper secured at its lower edges to an insole and a bottom (i.e. outer sole and heel) attached to the insole. The insole is not usually visible since its upper side is covered by a 'sock' intended to improve appearance, cushion the foot and absorb perspiration. The machines used to manufacture footwear vary according to the materials used and to the means employed to attach one part to another, especially the sole to the insole, for instance by sewing or sticking.

When a design has been evolved and converted into working patterns (a process still largely dependent on handcraft) and when tooling has been obtained, footwear manufacture starts in the so-called 'clicking'

room with the cutting of the uppers and linings from leather skins or man-made sheet.

Originally this was done manually by cutting around flat patterns. Now, except for uppers of the most expensive leather and for short production runs, the parts are cut out by operator-controlled hydraulic presses with swing arms using moveable shaped knives not unlike domestic pastry cutters. Cutting leather by this method is still highly skilled work; the 'clicker' has to reconcile the need to match the patterning of leather in pairs of boots or shoes and to use the natural stretch of the material to assist shape retention in wear with economy and with the avoidance of the blemishes in the skin.

The sewing machine is not easily displaced because of its flexibility and reliability, but the seams of some plastic uppers can now be heat welded, and various machines are being used to apply patterning which would formerly have been done by sewing.



Using traditional machine methods a single upper design can require as many as 20 operations and a typical range of, say, 12 styles produced by one factory can involve 34 different types of machine on which varying amounts of operative time would be required. Careful managerial control is thus necessary if high productivity in the closing room is to be achieved.



The largest factories have 'stock fitting' departments in which some or all components such as soles, insoles, stiffeners and heels are made. Increasingly however such items are obtained from specialised suppliers. They are made by a variety of machines such as injection moulding machines, heavy cutting presses, finishing machines (which shape and colour the edges of soles) and insole cutting and moulding machines.

**A shoe last below.**



The closed upper, the insole and the bottom components are brought together to construct the shoe in the lasting and making departments, the first major process in which is lasting. A last is a plastic mould shaped to take account both of critical dimensions of the foot and of the contours of the particular design of the shoe.

Lasting consists of stretching the upper over the last and securing it to the insole so that the leather conforms to the contours of the last and retains that shape when the last is removed.

Next the 'lasted uppers' are passed through a heat setting cabinet which successively forces steam into them and dries them out so as to relax the strains caused in lasting and to 'set' the upper permanently to 'the shape of the last'. The whole process takes about four minutes whereas prior to 1960 the lasted uppers needed to be kept on the lasts for several days.

If the bottom is to be stuck on or moulded on by injection moulding, the insole and lasted margin must be roughed by hand or by machine to achieve good adhesion.

And so the process goes on and on.....

**On the right a stitching machine which stitches plastic type soles to the 'upper'.**

There are a number of other methods of footwear construction varying with the style and performance required. One still in use accounting for about five per cent of all footwear is the moulding on of vulcanised rubber sole units, which was one of the first of the methods employed to form the finished sole directly on the lasted upper. About five per cent of men's shoes are still made by the machine welted process which reproduces mechanically the traditional operations of making hand-sewn footwear and was in general use for men's shoes until the fifties.

This construction employs an insole with an upstanding rib around the perimeter of its underside. During lasting the edges of the upper and lining are secured to the rib and a strip of leather, known as the welt, is then sewn in so as to combine the welt, upper and lining to the rib.

The manufacture of welted shoes entails about 50 different processes some of them performed on complex mechanically operated machines such as the stitching machine used for attaching 'the outsole to the welt'.





A typical shoe before final inspection and polishing. Shoes are often designed for different markets both local and international.



The packing and boxing area.

Below are the people who make the whole process possible (2010).

*Information from the Great Brak River Museum Archives, from Bolton's and the British Footwear Manufacturing Processes.*



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