



GRASSHOPPER COUNTRY
The Great Brak River
Museum News Letter

2 Amy Searle Street
 Great Brak River

January 2012

Phone 044-620-3338

Fax 044-620-3176

Email:

gbrmuseum@gmail.com

www.ourheritage.org.za

www.greatbrakriver.co.za

Editor Rene' de Kock

Dear Friends of the Museum

Issue 1 of 2012

Did you know that it was six years ago that we started the new format of Grasshopper Country and we have grown from strength to strength since then with improvements almost every month!



Three suspects in period dress at the 'Pelton Wheel' supper table.



Two suspects being interviewed by one of the amateur sleuths.



Our serving wenches dishing up the main course.

First Night at "The Cat Screamed at Midnight"

Supper guests enjoying the mystery plot and company and trying their best to determine who the murderer amongst them was.

The December AGM of the GEC was attended by very few members resulting in an outstanding opportunity to discuss important issues without conflict. The Wolwedans 'Reserve' has as yet not been finally signed off leaving no chance to further the many outstanding issues. At present the monitoring of the dam level during approaching rain relies on the local weather forecast which is totally unpredictable.

Important issues include news that a new weather radar station will be in operation shortly allowing for more accurate forecasting; additional spraying of the invading Spartina Alterniflora grass in the estuary is taking place; the water quality is continually being monitored and the Wolwedans dam is releasing small quantities of water to keep the river mouth open.

The G B R public is urged to share their observations and concerns with the CSIR. Feedback from the public is considered essential for the effective management of our estuary. Contact the DWA or Lara

The Museum is open Monday to Friday between 9 am and 4 pm.

For High Class Cuisine

Trans Karoo @ The Station Great Brak River. Ph: 044-620-4163



Are you Short of a book to read ?

A large collection of Pre-owned books on sale in the Museum Shop....Every week day.

Proceeds go to museum funds

Power Boating is only allowed between the Railway Bridge and the Charles Street Bridges.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry reports that during late December 2011, our **Wolwedans** dam water level is **99.0% full.**

van Niekerk on 021-888-2491 or email LvNiekerk@csir.co.za

Should any one require a copy of the agenda and report, these are available at the museum.

Our Trans Karoo Restaurant is in the news again. "Stefan Jamneck of the Transkaroo Restaurant in Great Brak River is the Gastro Nomix Chef of the Year for 2011". He was given this prestigious award at the annual CXpress Garden Route Culinary Awards evening which took place at the new Salina's Beach Restaurant in Wilderness.

A December Provincial News Flash from the Western Cape Government

Dear Colleagues

"Climate change affects all of us but it does not affect all of us equally. The poorest and most vulnerable – those who have done the least to contribute to global warming – are bearing the brunt of the impact today." Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

The rainfall pattern in the Western Cape is changing and the climate is likely to get drier. This will put already scarce water resources further at risk and it will affect the quantity of water available for drinking, irrigation and commercial and industrial use. As a result the cost of water is likely to increase and this will affect communities, threaten food security and damage the commercial viability of many of our businesses. The poorest among us are most likely to suffer the worst consequences.

How can you make a contribution? Fix all visible water leaks, wash clothes in full loads, wash your car with a bucket, install a dual-flush toilet and a low-flow showerhead, collect rainwater, cover your pool, use indigenous (water wise) plants in your garden, which reduces the need for irrigation and avoid watering your garden between 10:00 and 16:00.

WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

TREES OF THE GARDEN ROUTE
MOSSEL BAY TO STORMS RIVER



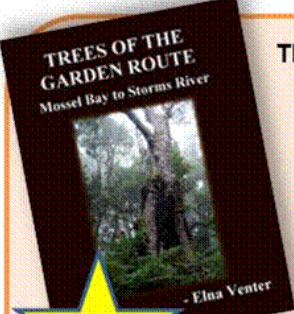
This 250 page easy tree guide is meant for people who would like to get to know the trees of the Garden Route, whether they are experienced botanists or amateurs.

The book contains information about 110 trees, including ± 1800 colour photographs, making it easy to ascertain that you have arrived at the right conclusion after identifying a tree with the help of the unique visual key.

Up-to-date with all the latest scientific - and common names!

R170
+ postage & packing

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Best book ever on the local trees of the Garden Route.

Visitors are welcome but no fishing, swimming or boating is allowed.

In September 2009 the Wolwedans dam water level stood at **44.50% full** and water restrictions were introduced.

Due to popular demand the Pelton Wheel Supper Club will be providing their Murder Mystery Evenings to parties of from ten to 15 patrons (preferably fourteen)
Please phone 083-448-1966 for details. Costs with a light supper depend on the number of supper guests and average around R100.00 per person. There are three mystery evenings available.



The Cat Screamed at Mid night a 1930's British mystery.



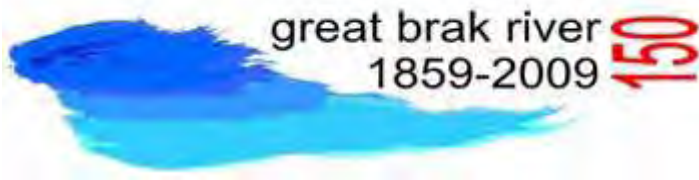
Death is a Cabernet Old Chum, a mystery set in the Melee Vineyards in the Nippy Valley.

Murder on the Petulant Express, a murder set in America in the 1930's


To liven up the evening, you may dress the character part.

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What's on, in and around the museum in Great Brak River this and the coming months?

Month & provisional date	Description	Supported by	Contact person
December		All of us	
January	Pre-owned books on sale in the Museum Shop....Every week day. Both English and Afrikaans books available from R4.00 each	The Museum for museum funds	The museum 044-620-3338
January	<i>"Visit the museum"</i> To see and learn about the creation of a Desert or Sand Rose	The Museum	Contact the museum @ 044-620-3338 for more details.
NEAR BY			
3-5 th February	DIAS Festival Mossel Bay Street Parades, vintage cars, floats, SA Navy @ Police Band Etc. etc. etc.	Mossel Bay Tourism	Contact Shirley on 044-691-3218 or Email Mail-shirley@afrishore.co.za

For more details on **what's on** in our area email **Jack Viljoen**, the new editor, with a request for their news letter: admin@southcapekleinkaroodiary.com



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Art @ 39 Long
drielaine@etimemail.co.za



**Film Theatre
and Art Studio**

39 Long Street,
Great Brak River, 6525
Cell Phone 082 576 3338
& 082 558 5244

Bolton Footware Ltd
Marius.Ferreira@Bolwear.co.za



**1 Charles Street
Great Brak River**

Phone 044-620-2111

**Caddy Shack at
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Course, Hersham**
garth.sladden@gmail.com



**Breakfast, Lunch and Teas
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**Flowers for
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Under the Pepper Tree
Great Brak River
Phone 044-620-5157**

**Dr E M de La Harpe
Medical Practitioner**

5a Long Street

Great Brak River

Phone 044-620-2208

**Cell Phone 082-556-
5275**

**Great Brak
Pharmacy**
gfick@telkomsa.net

49 Long Street

Great Brak River

Phone 044-620-2511

**Great Brak River
Shoestop**

info@watson-shoes.co.za



**1 Charles Street
Great Brak River
Phone 044-620-3453**

Groot Brak Kafee
grootbraksup@lantic.net



**For All Day & After
Hours Foodstuffs
20 Long Street Great Brak
River.
Phone 044-620-2217**

**Groot Brak
Drankwinkel**

ammmdevilliers@gmail.com



**12 Charles Street
Great Brak River
Phone 044-620-2931**

**Leani Kwekery &
Tuin Restaurant**

leani_kwekery@telkomsa.net



**Old Mossel Bay Road
(R 102)
Opposite Tergniet
turn off**

Phone 044-620-2565

**Ouma Betties se
Winkel**

stay@littlecreek.co.za

**Ouma Betties Shop is
at
7 Charles Street
Great Brak River**

**The market is held every
Saturday. Come and be
part of the relaxed
atmosphere and do all your
meat and vegetable
purchases. Farm breakfast
is served. Safe area for
kids.**

Phone 044-620-2548

**Pine Creek Holiday
Resort**



Marilzembrailo@hotmail.co.za

**Camping sites for both
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River
Reservations at 044-620
2434**

Robins Hair Salon
greyfield@mweb.co.za



**Styles for the 'Cat
Screamed at Midnight
Show'**

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Phone 044-620-2826**

The Museum Shoppe
gbrmuseum@gmail.com



**Colourful bags, kitchen ware,
wooden toys, dolls
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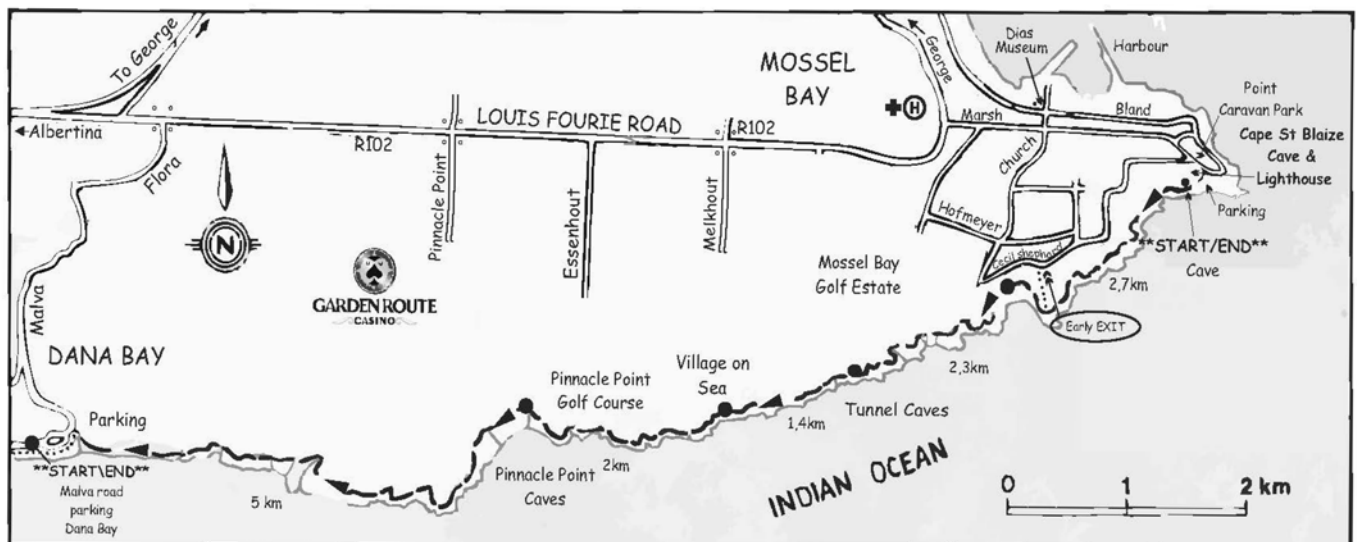
**Great Brak River
The Home of Great
Shoes**

*Hopes Craft
Classes will re-
start in January.*

*This year she
will be
concentrating
on Mixed Media.*

The St. Blaize Trail is a popular 13.5 km (6 hour) hike that follows the 30 metre contour along the cliffs westwards from the Cape St. Blaize Lighthouse. It begins at the Cave below the Lighthouse, and ends at Dana Bay (you can walk it in either direction), and is marked with the sign of the Oystercatcher (see photo). Parking is available at both the St. Blaize Cave and Dana Bay. The trail offers dramatic sea views, excellent whale and dolphin watching, good birding, and interesting fynbos. It is a moderately difficult walk that requires a reasonable degree of fitness. Carry water, use hats and sun-block, and exercise caution in wet weather, high winds, and mist. Exits and escape routes are situated far from the main roads and the town centre. Beware of snakes (especially puff adders) and flying golf balls in the area where the trail crosses the Pinnacle Point Golf Course. Do not hike alone; children should not hike unaccompanied.

Road shuttle services are available to meet you and return you to your vehicle by prior arrangement: Contact Mossel Bay Tourism.



For the full experience do the full Hiking Trail

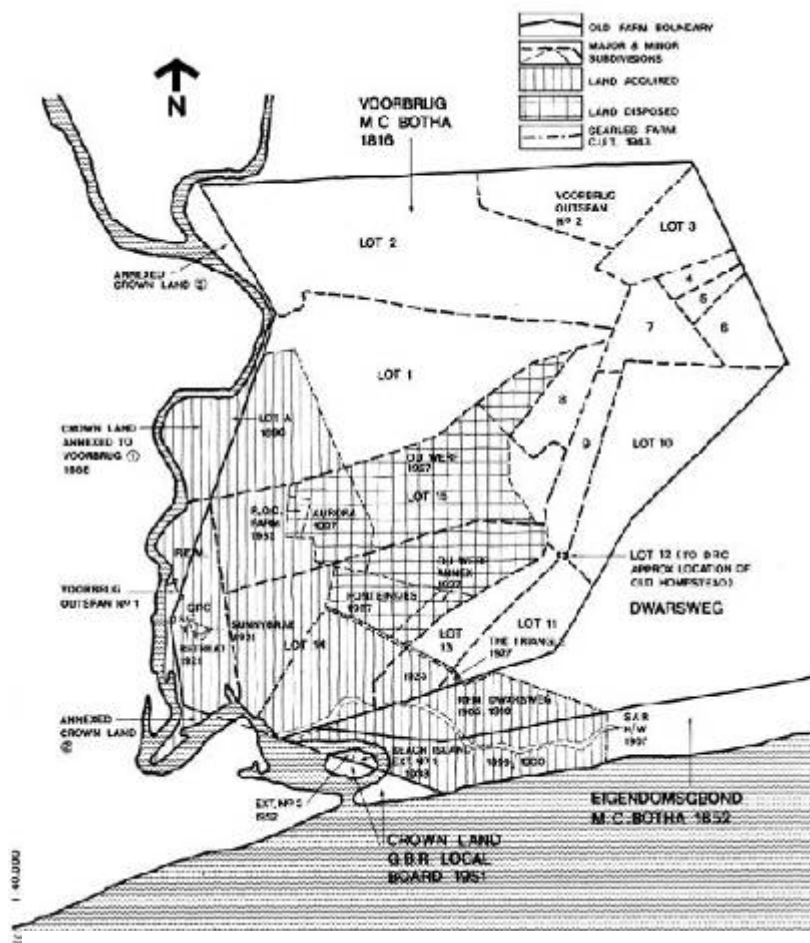
The HUNTER GATHERERS Hiking Trail is an unforgettable four day experience that takes you back in time. We guide you along this beautiful coastline, across massive sand dunes, along endless beaches and marine rich rocky shoreline where we explore with you, the ways, habits and legacies of the Stone age beach people.

Accommodation is in 2 camps in Boggomsbaai and/or Vleesbaai. Highly rated by GETAWAY magazine and SUNDAY TIMES TRAVEL. The popular TV programme, PASELLA, screens it on 15th February 2012 as one of their exciting experiences.

For advance bookings (hiking trails and cottages), please contact:

- **Tel:** +27(0)44 699 1204
- **Fax:** +27(0)44 699 1951
- **Cell:** +27(0)82 550 4788
- **E-mail:** stay@sandpipersafaris.co.za

Many of our readers don't know the history of our Island which is situated at the mouth of the Great Brak River. About 5,000 years ago, the river plains such as that of Great Brak River began silting up and this is evidenced by the sand flats which can be better seen at the nearby Wilderness lagoon. The Island was probably formed about 2,000 years ago. The landward part of the Island was originally part of 'Eigendomsreg, lot G' which was bought by Charles Searle Junior in about 1884.



The island must have changed shape over the years and a very early map shows the island split east west in two parts with a channel down the middle.

A MAP OF THE FARMS ACQUIRED BY THE SEARLE'S PRIOR TO ABOUT 1951 AND THE ORIGINAL CROWN LANDS.

BELOW, AN EARLY PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ISLAND CIRCA 1900. THE CENTRE OF THE ISLAND WAS THEN COVERED WITH WATER AND SWAMP.



At the turn of the century, the Island was a favourite place for the farmers from the 'Voorburg' farms to camp out on during the Christmas recess and by 1907 following the arrival of the railway it had become a very popular beach. It was during the 1920's that the Beach Island (its original name) began to develop as a holiday resort but it was not until after World War 1 that houses were built on the Island.

Claude Dugmore was the first person to build a house on the Island and the first buildings were rondavels. We know that in 1920, Fred Metelerkamp built a house on the west side of the Island on then Crown land which was leased from the Government. Mary and Tom Searle built adjacent houses soon after using 'wattle and daub' being rough wattle branches covered with plaster. These original constructions still stand today.

The Island was surveyed in the 1930's and during 1935 thirty eight plots on the Government or sea facing portion were sold. In these early days, there was no water other than that carried across the bridge and all supplies had to be ferried across by boat.

**THE ISLAND IN 1956.
VIEWED FROM THE ROAD
ABOVE THE STATION.**



The first two bridges to the island were primitive, suitable for foot traffic and were often damaged by floodwaters. The first single lane road bridge was only built in 1956. In 1938 a further batch of twenty three plots in the Searle's portion of the Island were sold for £50 each.

In 1949-50 the Searle's undertook the reclamation of the then swampy part of the Island and a further 15 plots were added. A lot known as GBRM, half of Beach Island and Vishoek (the hill on the east side overlooking the Island) were still held as Crown Land until 1951 then granted in favour of the Local Board. In 1969 the last subdivision was undertaken and these plots went for R3,000 each.



ABOVE, THE ISLAND IN 1957 AT LOW TIDE VIEWED FROM THE AIR.

ON THE LEFT, A 1980 PLAN OF THE ISLAND SHOWING THE OFTEN CHANGING WATER COURSE.



Resisting the impact of countless river floods over the past one hundred and fifty years and with the rising sea levels, the Island is now in need of protection from the sea and certain areas could require a sea wall fitted with gravity discharge flaps similar to that shown and in use in Canada.

Low cost 'floodboxes' allow gravity discharge of internal drainage water from behind the dike into the main watercourse during times when the external water level is lower than the level behind the dike, while preventing backflows when stream flows are high.



Floodboxes generally consist of a pipe or culvert through the dike or wall with a flap gate at the waterside outlet and may have trash racks fitted at the inlet and/or the outlet.

From Guidelines for Management of Flood Protection Works in British Columbia.



DURING JUNE 2010 FOLLOWING A VERY UNUSUAL LONG DROUGHT AND WITH AN ABNORMALLY HIGH SAND BAR CLOSED THE RIVER MOUTH, A VERY HEAVY DOWNPOUR CAUSED MANY HOUSES ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE ISLAND TO BE FLOODED.

The Island has many traditions one of which starting in 1953 is a church service on Christmas morning held under the trees alongside the tennis court. Christmas 2011 saw upwards of 300 people attend.

A PHOTOGRAPH FROM OUR 2009 COMPETITION. A PICTURESQUE PHOTO OF THE NORMALLY TRANQUIL ISLAND FROM THE GREAT BRAK RIVER HEIGHTS.



Guy Harris has asked me to provide some background on our local Khoe San and their tribes. Whilst there is a good deal of written material around the tribes that lived in and around Cape Town and to the north of the great city, not much is available about our local tribes other than the oral stories and tales of their ancestors. By the time the settlers reached the Great Brak River, the Khoe tribes had learned that further fighting with the new settlers would not achieve anything and generally chose to work on these new farms.

On the southern coast of the Cape the Overberg (Swellendam) was in the early days the territory of the Chainokwa and the Hessekwa Khoe tribes, with captain Goukou as the most important tribal headman. Northeast of the Hessekwas the Gourikwa tribe lived on the banks of the Gourits River (which has one main tributary beginning beyond Laingsburg into the Karoo and the other traveling through Calitzdorp but starting well beyond the N1 highway), the Attakwas around die Attakwa Mountains (to the west and



north of the Robinson pass) and in the Kango Valley and the Houtenikwa tribe around the Outenikwa or in English Outeniqua Mountains and in the Langkloof. These regions, however, overlapped, as was the case with all other Khoikhoi grazing territories. We also know that the Hessequa had grazed their cattle as far east as the town of Mossel Bay.

Distribution of the Khoi-Khoi tribes in the 17th Century (after Richard Elphick)

For the purposes of broad anthropological, history and

heritage interpretation we talk of the "Khoisan" or the 'Khoesan', but at no time did this constitute a single united people. The San and the Khoe are very different people having arrived at separate times.

Global warming started long before the "Industrial Revolution" and the invention of the internal combustion engine. Our global warming began 18,000 years ago as the earth started warming its way out of the **Pleistocene Ice Age** -- a time when much of North America, Europe, and Asia lay buried beneath great sheets of glacial ice.

The earth now underwent further warming and the San and subsequent Khoe migrations took place. This was very much later in time and these people appeared to be returning from the North. There may have been the odd local tribe still living in the area but this has yet to be established. We know little of the early but important micro climates in the Western Cape. It was the magnificent fynbos and numerous edible plants that made this possible.

The San probably originated on the north coast of Africa and were then driven further and further south by stronger nations. When the San reached the southern point of Africa, the Black tribes were primarily still living in the tropical and equatorial parts of central Africa. Physically the San, with their short frames (1.49 to 1.63 meters), copper brown skin, tightly coiled "peppercorn" hair, high cheekbones, and epicanthic eye folds, a skin of the upper eyelid, are quite distinct from the darker-skinned peoples who constitute the majority of Africa's population. They have moderately long legs and longer abdominal muscles, traits that sharply distinguish them from surrounding Pygmy and Bantu populations having muscles with short bellies and long tendons they are visually distinguishable from the Africans of Bantu

origin.

The San (also known as the Bushmen or Saan) were the earliest identifiable tribe of people to inhabit the Western Cape; their story goes back at least 100,000 years, crossing over and finally travelling down the West coast to arrive in Namibia some 20,000 years ago. Our San probably moved to the Western Cape more recently, about 10 000 years ago because of milder winters and better food sources. As hunter-gatherers they lived with nature, observing the seasons and tides, hunting, fishing, foraging and gathering edible plants and roots. They ranged a wide area knowing when and where to go for the best food and shelter. For several millennia the San lived in peaceful isolation until the first of several waves of 'colonists' swept into South Africa. Each time a new wave arrived the existing populations were marginalized. In the first of these waves, the pastoralist Khoe or Khoi-khoi moved down into the Western and Southern coastal regions – pushing many of the hunter-gatherer San inland and into the deserts. The San were the rock painters, a characteristic not continued by the Khoe.



It is generally accepted that the pastoralist people (the Khoekhoe or the Khoikhoi) speaking the Khoekwadi language entered South Africa a little over 2000 years ago, arriving from the northeast where they had likely acquired additional agriculture knowledge. This was at a time when the Kalahari was more amenable to agriculture and not the desert it is today. The nearest language relative of the Khoe family appears to be the extinct and poorly attested Kwadi language of Angola. The Khoe languages were the first Khoisan languages known to European colonists and are famous for their clicks. Today there are only about 2,000 people in South Africa who speak Khoe and not many more in adjoining Namibia.

It is thought that circa 2,200 to 2,100 years ago many Khoe-speaking peoples in northern Botswana converted to pastoralism, herding their cattle and sheep on the rich pastures exposed by the retreating wetlands of the Okavango Delta and Lake Makgadikgadi. Since the pastures were both rich and vast, there was no need to plant seed. Finds of sheep bone dating back 3,000 years suggest that the Khoe had obtained their stock long before the arrival of the Bantu in South Africa, probably from East Africa where they had been herding for thousands of years or from Ethiopia. The Khoe were similar in features to the San but were lighter in skin colouring. Both spoke click languages, though there are major differences between them.

These Khoe people introduced pastoralism to the Western Cape. They kept cattle for pack animals and for riding on. Although they also hunted and gathered they have been classified as pastoralists or herders. Their cattle were the indigenous Nguni type with longhorns. The cattle were a very important asset and were used to provide milk which was their basic diet. Meat was rarely eaten. Their sheep did not look like the grey woolly animals we see on farms but were hairy; fat tailed and had longer legs.



We are fortunate that for a time the San people, co-inhabiting parts of the same area, painted these sheep on the rock faces of their rock shelters in the Cederberg Mountains. From these paintings we can see that the Khoe herded a type of fat-tailed sheep.

As hunter-gatherers they lived with nature, observing the seasons and tides, hunting, fishing, foraging and gathering edible plants and roots. They ranged a wide area knowing when and where to go for the

best food and shelter. Living in highly mobile groups of between 20 and 50, either following the game around the country – and living in close rhythm with the land and its seasons – or maintaining a more settled life along the coastal regions – and depending on seals, shellfish, crayfish, birds and the occasional beached whale, for food. When their food source started to dwindle, they would move to the next known place allowing the present site to re-establish itself.



An early Fat Tailed Sheep.

The Khoe at various times inhabited several places in the present Mossel Bay municipal area but being nomadic, they moved around continually taking their grass and branch abodes with them. During this time the Khoe and the San lived happily side-by-side and in a few instances, intermarried. Both peoples were

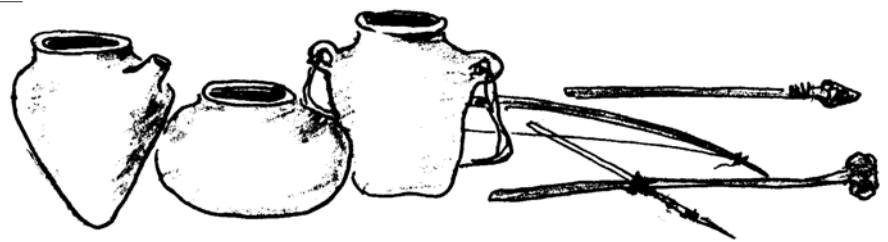
fishermen but they had no knowledge of boats and trapped fish mainly using tidal fish traps. They lived in simple and throwaway huts made of long sticks bound at the top with vines or other fibre then covered it with grass. Each family had their own hut. The Khoe were further advanced technologically as they had more skills. They made clay pots for storage and cooking. Each family made their own pots from ground up anthills, which they shaped to suit the need. Many had pointed bases; others had spouts or handles for thongs from which to hang them. These were dried slowly in the shade then when they were really dry they would be baked in a fire pit.

Their mat weaving was very advanced as they could weave rainproof mats, which also blocked out the light. These were ideal for hut coverings; also for sleeping on. These would be rolled up for packing on their oxen when they moved. During the 2,000 years in the Western Cape, they progressed from stone tools to making iron tools and weapons. Their arrows had metal tips instead of the bone ones used in earlier periods. The Khoe also dug wells to access water and they guarded these wells very closely.

Many of our place names have their origin in the Khoisan languages; sometimes in translated forms such as Melkriver, which is a translation of the Khoe, name Bikamma. We are familiar with the name of our own lovely mountain range, the Outeniqua (meaning where men carry honey) and Karoo (the place of dryness), Gamka, Namaqualand, Keiskamma, Gouritz and many more which enrich our language from those far off times.

Typical Khoe type clay pots.

The early seafarers landing in Mossel Bay from 1488 found three tribes here; the Gouriqwas, the Outeniqua or Attaqwa (all Khoe), and the San.



The Khoe possessed a good knowledge of healing herbs and were often called upon to help sick sailors left in their care. The meaning of "Gouriqua" stems from early times. Over 500 years ago, one of these tribes was foraging in the area and they often camped out in the vicinity of the Gouritz River mouth. It can be inferred that the name of this tribe was "Gouriqua" because it literally means Gouri (a name of an important person, maybe their leader) and qua (children/sons of...)

During their expedition into the interior in 1667/68 Corporal Hieronymus Cruse and his company on a trading mission met these people. The kraals of the tribe were situated on the banks of the river that later became known as the Gourits River. The pass was originally known as Lange Cloov but soon renamed as the Attaquas Kloof pass after the local people.

In 1689 looking for cattle and sheep to buy, Isaac Schrijver came along our coastal strip and found that the pastoralists had moved into the Klein Karoo in search of better grazing. He crossed the mountains through Attaquas Kloof widening an elephant track to take his wagons.

In 1674 the Dutch East India Company launched a second follow-up attack on the Chocoqua tribe. In that Third Dutch-Khoikhoi War almost 5000 head of livestock in addition to weapons were taken from the Chocoqua. The war continued until 1677 when Governor Bax extracted the submission of the Chocoqua to Dutch rule that was expressed in an annual tribute of thirty head of cattle. That submission paved the way for Dutch colonial expansion into the remaining land of the Khoikhoi.

The advancing of "trek or migrant white" farmers reached Great Brak River by 1731 and in 1745, the Cape Government declared the Great Brak River as the eastern border of the Colony in a region known as "De Verre Afgeleegene Districten". During the period 1731- 1751, a burger named 'van Duijk' grazed his cattle in a place called 'Wolf dantz' later becoming the farm Wolwedans. In 1762 a grazing licence was granted to a Hendrik van der Watt; the acquired farm was then uninhabited.

During the early seventeen hundreds, these migrant white farmers entered the area now the municipality of Mossel Bay. Many new rudimentary dwellings were built but these have since disappeared. These early buildings and homesteads were built of sun-dried brick using local clays, which were then covered by thatch grass roofs. A little known Khoe uprising in the closing years of the seventeen hundreds led to the burning down of these houses and the walls being of unbaked brick which when exposed to the rain were soon washed away.

It is documented that in 1827, Johannes Gerhardus Terblanche bought the farm Wolwedans on the west bank of the Great Brak river for £360.00 (R720.00). In and around the turn of the century, now under a short period of British rule, most of the farms in the Great Brak area were legitimately owned by one or other mainly white family. These farms were often subdivided and subsequently sold on. It is understood that a few of these farms were sold to the Coloured community but were later annexed by the Apartheid government.

Hand ploughing on the banks of the Great Brak River estuary.

The now indigenous local people, a diverse society of part Khoe, probably from the 'Gouriqua' tribe, part early European, part Malay heritage (Slave), part San, Xhosa and Refugee, live and work in the area often going back to their routes and doing the uncommon such as cultivating and hand



ploughing the Great Brak River estuary flats by means of horse drawn ploughs. Most of these people have long lost their ability to speak their native tongues and use Afrikaans.

What remains of our knowledge on the local tribes is their stories and one of the more important Attaquas tales is of the Mermaid in Meiringspoort where the main road crosses the river twenty five times whilst meandering through the Kloof on its way from Oudtshoorn to Beaufort West.

Well into the kloof is a waterfall and a beautiful mermaid was said to live at the foot of the top pool.

During the 1996 floods a story circulated that she had been washed out of the pool, down the Groot and Oliphants rivers and out to sea. She had then been caught in a fisherman's net and taken to the CP Nel Museum in Oudtshoorn, where she was preserved in spirits!

The Museum was overwhelmed with telephone calls and visitors keen to see the mermaid! They can confirm that she is still in the pool as she has been seen there - and she is called Christine. She has moved down into the second pool and still has another three pools to inhabit should she wish to do so. There are five gorgeous crystal pools in all. It's well-worth a visit even if you don't see Christine!

KHOE DRAWINGS BY KAY SCHRODER.

The museum has a large **Desert or Sand Rose** on loan and this will be on display during the month of January. The Desert Rose is the everyday name given to rosette formations of the minerals gypsum and barite with poikilotopic sand inclusions. The 'petals' are crystals flattened on the *c* crystallographic axis, fanning open along characteristic gypsum cleavage planes.

The rosette crystal habit tends to occur when the crystals form in arid sandy conditions, such as the evaporation of a shallow salt basin. Gypsum roses usually have better defined, sharper edges than barite roses. The rose on display is from Namibia.



Saharan desert rose, 47 cm long.



Büdingen desert rose, Germany



Challenge & Attakwas Mini 52km Presented by Spur Steak Ranches

RACE INFO

ATTAKWAS EXTREME MTB CHALLENGE 2012 AND THE ATTAKWAS MINI PRESENTED BY SPUR STEAK RANCHES

DATE: 14 January 2012

RACE FEES: Attakwas Extreme: R 450 until 31 December 2011, R 520 late entry fee
Attakwas Mini: R 170 until 31 December 2011, R 200 late entry fee

FROM – TO: Chandelier Game Farm in Oudtshoorn to Pine Creek Resort in Grootbrak

CONTACTS

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Carel Herholdt: 0823791177
carel@dryland.co.za

ROUTE ENQUIRIES

Henco Rademeyer: 0826511680
henco@dryland.co.za

South Africa Tourism launches new Minimum Standard for Responsible Tourism

South Africa Tourism has launched its new, globally aligned Minimum Standard for Responsible Tourism initiative. The tourism department worked with stakeholders for more than 18 months to decide on the criteria. These were then refined through the South African Bureau of Standards.

The South African National Minimum Standard for Responsible Tourism (SANMSRT) has been benchmarked against the Global Sustainable Tourism Council's criteria and is based on three cornerstones of Sustainable Tourism, namely, social and cultural, economic, and environmental responsibility, as mentioned in the company release.

The new Minimum Standard offers a unified national responsible tourism standard and accreditation system. This holistic form of tourism will help travellers as well the host population, without causing any economic, ecological or social damage and by additionally providing better living conditions for the local community."

Few countries have published national standards of this level and through this initiative; South Africa will set a benchmark for knowledge and leadership in this field for other countries.

The SANMSRT will be a voluntary standard. Tourism certification bodies seeking to be accredited will work through the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS), which will be ready to carry out this task by the middle of 2012. Responsible Tourism principles include respect for cultural and natural environments, avoiding energy and water over-consumption and waste, ensuring that local communities benefit from tourism, and adhere to ethical business practices.

Thanks & acknowledgement to TravelBizmonitor

QUOTES

By Edward Abbey

US radical environmentalist (1927 - 1989)

- Anarchism is founded on the observation that since few men are wise enough to rule themselves, even fewer are wise enough to rule others.
- No tyranny is so irksome as petty tyranny: the officious demands of policemen, government clerks, and electromechanical gadgets.
- One man alone can be dumb sometimes, but for real bona fide stupidity, there ain't nothin' can beat teamwork.
- Sentiment without action is the ruin of the soul.

THE FINAL WORD

"This cape is the most stately thing and the fairest cape we saw in the whole circumference of the earth"

Sir Francis Drake (1580)

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

LOUIS: Because George still had the axe in his hand....

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mum is a good cook.

