

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PORT ELIZABETH**

**NEWSLETTER NO 47, OCTOBER 2017**

Dear Member

**PROGRAMME OF EVENTS:**

**THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER AT 12H30 – ANNUAL LUNCH.** Join members at Old Austria Restaurant, 24 Westbourne Road, Richmond Hill, for a delicious 2-course meal in friendly company. On offer is a choice of a starter OR a dessert PLUS your choice from a menu of 12 light main courses, and tea/coffee to finish. Members may order a drink of their choice from the bar, which will be for their own account. You may choose and order at the time, but please book with our Secretary for seating numbers; Christine also has the menu, if you wish to choose your main course before deciding.

**Bookings:** To Christine by 9 October.

**Cost:** R75.00, including the tip.

**FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER AT 10H00 – VISIT TO THE NEWLY-RESTORED CAMPANILE AND THE MAIN RAILWAY STATION.**

Tony Neveling and Ivo Huisman will be our guides, and the party will be divided into two parts, one half to the Campanile and the other to the Station, then vice versa. As the numbers must be limited to 20 in total due to space limitations in the Campanile, attendance at this event will be restricted to Members of the Society only in this number on a 'first come, first served' basis. However if there is a larger response from Members, we can repeat the event in 2018.

**Parking:** This can be a problem in this area, so please arrive in good time to deal with this; however there are many parking bays in the area and sometimes in Station Street alongside the Main Station – entrance to this parking is from Strand Street southbound and a small fee is charged. As a last resort, there is parking under the high-level freeway close to Tramways.

**Bookings:** To Christine before 13 November.

**Cost:** No charge.

**SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER AT 15H00 – CHRISTMAS TEA AT SAVAGES RESTAURANT, CNR PARK DRIVE & PARK LANE.**

Come and join Members at this traditional end-of-year event in a new and historical venue. The tea will be preceded by one of Margaret Harradine's famous walkabouts in the area.

**Bookings:** To Christine by 4 December.

**Cost:** Members R

**THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 17H00 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH HALL.**

After the completion of the AGM business, our President Mr Bartle Logie has kindly agreed to give an illustrated talk on the recent bush fire which damaged many buildings at Woodridge College. Please reserve this date for your 2018 diary.

**Cost:** As usual, there is no charge for this meeting, but we would ask all members who are able to attend to please notify Christine Helmbold beforehand, for quorum reasons.

**BOOKING** PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MUST PHONE CHRISTINE HELMBOLD TO BOOK FOR ALL THESE EVENTS (NAME, PHONE NUMBER, CELLPHONE – AND PLEASE BE ON TIME, ESPECIALLY AT A PRE-ARRANGED MEETING PLACE AS WE CANNOT HOLD UP THE PARTY FOR LATE-COMERS. WE MUST KNOW HOW MANY ARE COMING, PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE EVENTS WHERE CATERING IS INVOLVED; ALSO SOMETIMES ARRANGEMENTS CHANGE SO, IF WE DON'T KNOW YOU ARE COMING, WE CANNOT WARN YOU OF THE CHANGE IN PLAN.

**NB1** The Society has experienced several instances where a member (or guest) has booked to attend a meeting where catering is involved and, when that member does not show, the Society has to bear the cost. We therefore give notice that, if a member has booked and cancels within 2 days of an event or does not appear, that member will be invoiced the cost of that event per head. The only alternative we have would be to ask for payment with booking, but this will be an inconvenience which we prefer to avoid. We ask please for your co-operation in this matter, as this problem is resulting in financial losses for the Society, which we can ill afford.

**NB2** Please note that, in accordance with the Society's new policy, all participants will be required to sign the indemnity form on arrival at the venue.

**TRANSPORT** THOSE MEMBERS WITHOUT TRANSPORT FOR EVENTS MUST PLEASE MAKE THIS KNOWN WHEN BOOKING AND WE WILL TRY TO ARRANGE FOR YOU TO TRAVEL WITH ANOTHER MEMBER.

**COMMITTEE** The Committee members are listed below; any enquiries should be directed to Christine Helmbold or you may write to me at my email address shown at the end of this Newsletter:

Margaret Harradine (Chairman)  
Jenny Bennie (Vice-Chairman)  
Merlin Nell (Hon Secretary)  
Alan Montgomery (Treasurer)  
Bill Wright  
Rose Trehaeven  
Richard Tomlinson (Scribe)  
Rinus van den Berg  
Christine Helmbold (Secretary) 082 2635825 Email: info@historicalsocietype.co.za.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

<i>Port Elizabeth</i> by Margaret Harradine	R400.00
<i>Hills Covered with Cottages</i> by Margaret Harradine	R450.00
<i>Donkin Heritage Trail and Richmond Hill Trail</i>	R 30.00
<i>History of the E H Walton Group</i>	R 50.00
<i>'Looking Back' Cumulative Indexes, Volumes 1-12 (1961-72), 13-22 (1973-82), 23-30 (1983-91) and 31-41 (1992-2002)</i> Each	R 20.00
<i>Gazetteer of the Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage Divisions of the Old Cape Colony</i> compiled by Bartle Logie & Margaret Harradine	R350.00

These books may be purchased by arrangement with Christine Helmbold, and some are in stock at No 7 Castle Hill Museum; please contact Christine or a Committee member should you require further details. We also have stock of

many back-numbers of *Looking Back*, so please ask and we will check our stocks for a particular issue for you.

The *Cumulative Index for Looking Back Volumes 42-53 (2003-14)* is available in digital format to members by email, free of charge, on application. Please contact the Scribe for this.

**SOCIETY'S WEBSITE** Please check our website for the latest Newsletter and Programme, if for some reason you have lost or did not receive your copy. Let us have your comments and any suggestions you may have to improve the site. **Our website address is – [www.historicalsociety.co.za](http://www.historicalsociety.co.za).**

**CHANGE OF SECRETARY** The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Secretary, Mrs Lyn Haller, for all the hard work she has done for the Society during the four years that she has been with us. As she was running her own tourism company with her husband and working as Secretary of the Mandela Bay Heritage Trust, Lyn decided that continuing as Secretary of the Hist Soc as well was “a bridge too far” and regretfully resigned.

However we were most fortunate to find Mrs Christine Helmbold to take Lyn's place as our Secretary and are already finding her most resourceful and pleasant to work with. We hope she will enjoy her relationship with our Society.

### **HERITAGE NEWS**

- **King Edward Hotel.** This high-profile heritage building has been in the news in recent months, but not for the right reasons. *The Herald* reported on 7 June that the owner, a sheik from the United Arab Emirates, allegedly left South Africa owing more than 1 million Rands to the contractor involved in renovation work on the Hotel, R155 000 to the former manager of a game reserve near Humansdorp and R5 600 to a helicopter pilot for a chartered flight over the sheik's second reserve near Steytlerville. Attempts to trace the owner for payment of these alleged debts have so far failed. In addition, *Weekend Post* of 12 August reported that 4 rhino horns were found by the Hawks in a locked cabinet in the King Edward.

- On 18 July your Scribe was invited to attend a public meeting in Schoenmakerskop to discuss a proposal for a local sand and stone merchant to mine sand on the north side of the village, which was likely to endanger the continued existence of the World War 2 artillery observation post (1940) and the adjacent remains of the coastal radar station (1942). Scribe had made his comments on 10 May re the importance of saving the OP especially and the site in general. Objections from the local Ratepayers' and Residents' Association, as well as the Algoa Bay Branch of the Wildlife and Environment Society of SA (WESSA), persuaded the mining body to amend their proposal to ensure the retention of this landmark Artillery building, one of a complete set of wartime structures which have survived to the present day from 1939-40 and the designs of which are unique in SA. Other arguments from SRRA affecting the adjacent winding section of Victoria Drive, environmental damage and an increase in dust in windy weather are still being pursued by Schoenies residents, and we wish them well with their protest.

Richard Tomlinson, SCRIBE

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