

Review of 2018 Chamber highlights

April: Members of the Exco met with the Municipality. Presentation by the Small Business Institute (SBI) to the Exco. Visit to Karoo Catch.

May: AGM and talk by Pete O' Halloran on 'The Perfect Structure for Tax Security and Efficiency'.

Communication regarding hospital developments via the Newsletter.

June: Update by hospital development team to the whole community held at Botanics.

August: Network Meeting: Agri EC President Doug Stern on land reform developments and latest updates on government interaction.

September: Visit by the Swiss Ambassador and Innovation Hub timed with the Solar Car Challenge.

Network meeting: State of the Economy by Prof. Charles Wait of Nelson Mandela Bay University.

Network Meeting: November

Dr Dennis Farrell, Chairperson of the George Business Chamber spoke at our last Network Meeting. His talk focused on social inclusivity and growth of the local economy. He also highlighted some of the global and local economic risks of greatest concern:

- ◆ Large-scale involuntary migration
- ◆ State collapse or crisis (Greece, Iran, Afghanistan etc.)
- ◆ Interstate conflict (China, Russia)

- ◆ Unemployment—globally and locally

- ◆ Extreme weather conditions

He encouraged local business owners to familiarise themselves with the IDP to identify opportunities for Public Private Partnerships to create “jobs for the labour force we have, not the labour force we would like to have” (Bernstein). The event served as an opportunity for members to visit the newly opened Coldstream restaurant under Drostdy Hotel ownership. A most enjoyable evening was had by all!



Dr Dennis Farrell, Kim Imrie and Louwrens Selzer



Coldstream Restaurant

EMAIL ETIQUETTE TIPS

To be successful, email must be both efficient and considerate. To meet the needs of your email readers, follow these rules.

Begin with a precise subject. For example, write “Two Changes in Your London Itinerary” -not “Travel Update”. When *forwarding* an email, ensure that the subject line is *still* relevant.

Never leave the subject blank. If you are not sure what the subject is, you are *not* ready to send a message.

Use standard punctuation, spelling, and capitalization to help readers understand your message quickly. When using email as a formal communication, treat it like a letter.

Think before you type. Decide why you are writing and what you want your readers to do. Then organize your thoughts. *Don't* expect your readers to do the thinking for you.

Change paragraphs when you change ideas. One-sentence paragraphs *are* acceptable.

Always insert a blank line between paragraphs. Big blocks of text intimidate readers. Intimidation = unread message.

Press Reply to say “thanks” only when the message merits a thank you or the sender needs acknowledgment that you received the message.

Use standard font sizes and colours for easy reading. *Don't* use “wallpaper” backgrounds or interesting graphics to dress up your messages.

Avoid smiley faces and clever emoticons, your reader may think such symbols are unprofessional.

Tell readers if you expect action from them. People read email too fast to guess at requests implied between the lines. If possible, include your request in the first lines of text so they can't miss it.

On a thoughtful note...

MY SOUL HAS A HAT

By Mario de Andrade

I counted my years and realized that I have less time to live by, than I have lived so far.

I feel like a child who won a pack of candies: at first, he ate them with pleasure but when he realized that there was little left, he began to taste them intensely.

I have no time for endless meetings where the statutes, rules, procedures and internal regulations are discussed, knowing that nothing will be done.

I no longer have the patience to stand absurd people who, despite their chronological age, have not grown up.

My time is too short: I want the essence; my spirit is in a hurry. I do not have much candy in the package anymore.

I want to live next to humans, very realistic people who know how to laugh at their mistakes and who are not inflated by their own triumphs and who take responsibility for their actions. In this way, human dignity is defended and we live in truth and honesty.

It is the essentials that make life useful.

I want to surround myself with people who know how to touch the hearts of those whom hard strokes of life have learned to grow with sweet touches of the soul.

The Chairman and Executive Committee of the Graaff Reinet Business Chamber would like to take the opportunity of wishing all members a well-deserved rest and we look forward to being of service again to you in the new year!

