

Second Quarter 2019 Update

Establishment of Graaff Reinet Forum

Over the last few months members have received communication concerning the establishment of the **Graaff Reinet Forum**. The forum is seen as a means for the community and representatives of various civic organisations in Graaff Reinet to take responsibility and assist the municipality with the effective management of resources. As you are aware there are at least three critical issues at hand involving water, electricity and waste management. One of our members, Derek Light of Derek Light Attorneys has been the driving force and we wish to commend him for his efforts in setting up this community based A-political structure.

Members were privileged to be invited to a talk by Hein Koegelenberg, Chairman of the Franschoek Tourism Board on Friday the 14th of June at Coldstream. He provided an example of a similar forum which has been successful in the Franschhoek valley. Community members were provided with a number of examples which could be replicated. A summary of this talk will be distributed to members.



Derek Light introducing Hanli and Hein Koegelenberg (centre), Johan Bouwer (L)

Next Network Function - end August.

Eugene Maree from Wealthport will talk to members on a Post Election Economy.

AGM: 3rd June , Coldstream

Chamber Secretary and Treasurer Arland Stanley represented Chairperson Hento Davids who had been unexpectedly called to Johannesburg. He gave a report back on the previous year concerning two key aspects which the Chamber was able to carry out with limited resources—municipal interaction and network events. Auditors, GBG were re-elected as were the existing Executive Committee members.

Towards the end of formalities and before the main speaker Doug Stern, Eastern Cape Agri Chairman, stood up and addressed his deep concern for the runaway refuse from the waste site and the effect on agricultural livestock. This opened up an earnest response from Derek Light about the need for the establishment of the new Graaff Reinet Forum, the open, honest and transparent discussion with the municipality and how the community and business leaders need to be part of the solution. Other members were able to provide some input and all acknowledged Dereks efforts thus far. Against this backdrop Frank Retief provided some helpful pointers on leadership based on the John Maxwell methodology. Business Chamber members looked forward to a lovely meal of Osso Bucco and Tiramisu cooked to perfection and served slickly by Coldstream on a cold winters evening.



SanParks Update

Game Capture—The following game have been successfully captured and will be transferred to other parks:

17 Buffalo, 54 Eland, 50 Blesbuck and 40 Red Hartebees

Valley of Desolation—The universal access footpath and universal access ablutions have been approved! Well done to Buks Marais on many months of work behind the scenes. Construction is likely to start soon with completion in approximately 2 months time.

We would like to welcome **new members** : Koos Grobbelaar in his personal capacity and as representative of the Graaff Reinet Club as well as Sakkie van Zyl of Van Zyl FB and Seuns.