



THE GREYTON POST

ISSUE 13

MAY / JUNE 2025


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Dear Readers,

As we settle into the rhythm of 2025, I'm filled with gratitude and excitement for everything unfolding in our valley. One of the biggest joys of the new year has been the arrival of Greyton's very own Unimog firetruck—a mighty machine standing proudly thanks to the generous support of our community. The list of donors is long, and each name is a reminder of how deeply we care about keeping our valley safe. What a powerful testament to what we can achieve together.

We're also thrilled to share that The Greyton Post now has a 'newsroom' in the Oak and Vigne Courtyard! Meetings are by appointment, but if the door is open, do pop in—we'd love a chat or to hear your latest news bite. Look out, too, for our upcoming Greyton Post community newsboard in the village where events and local updates will be on display - contact us for details should you like to advertise. We'll keep you posted on the exact location

shortly.

As we grow, so do our costs. If you enjoy the paper and would like to support us, please consider scanning the QR code on the front page to make a voluntary donation. R50 per copy helps us cover rising print costs and exciting developments like our new premises and outreach efforts. You could also consider an annual donation of R300, which helps ensure you receive your copy while supporting the continued growth of the paper. Every little bit helps us keep The Greyton Post alive, inclusive, and free to those who may not otherwise afford it.

Thank you for your continued support—readers, writers, advertisers, and every one of you who brings this valley to life.



Warm wishes,

Paula Ansley
Editor, The Greyton Post

A poem by Shani (Instagram: @blondiepoems)

I've kept my winter boots hidden,
under the cupboard
where dust sits and shovels all summer long,
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- as of yet -
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to
& sunshine splatters are on my
mind,
but the rainy season cannot be
swept away like dried leaves
& soon my boots will have
to make an appearance.



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THE DOCTOR'S NOTE...



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Greyton Gone Wild: Building Regs, Heritage Hiccups, and the Rise of the Rogue Renovator *(with tongue firmly in cheek...)*

Mike Ash

There's something in the mountain air lately—and it's not just flowers, arsonists, and wood-fired pizza. Greyton, beloved for its "heritage-chic" aesthetic, finds itself in a growing state of architectural confusion and regulatory farce. Think *The Office*—but with more cement dust and fewer competent officials.

At the heart of this drama lies the mysterious black hole otherwise known as the TWK Municipality. Specifically, their Zoning Scheme By-Law and the Urban Conservation Overlay Zone (UCOZ), where building plans go to die or, if you're lucky, hibernate indefinitely. Want to check the status of an application? Good luck. Want to comment on one? Even better luck. The relevant official is often "away," the phone line sizzles like a campfire, and emails vanish with Houdini-esque flair.

Into this vacuum strides a

new breed: The Hopeful Home Improver. Armed with Pinterest inspiration, a vague sense of what's allowed, and a contractor named Gawie, they're quietly adding carports, electric fences (more City than Overberg), and mysterious piles of bricks just waiting to become something.

One enterprising homeowner was overheard saying, "If we cut into the veld high on the hill and put up a few fence posts, no one will notice." Spoiler: everyone noticed.

Builders, often from out of town and sometimes even further out of their depth than the locals, try to follow instructions like "keep it in the vernacular" or "you know, like that cottage on Park Street but with a plunge pool and glass walls." The results range from baffling to borderline criminal—at least one such design triggered a 74-comment Facebook thread and a community meeting involving muffins and

mild outrage.

Then there's Greyton's hard-won heritage status—a badge of honour earned through years of dedication. On paper, it protects the town's architectural soul. In practice, it's often reduced to a quaint suggestion, brought up at meetings by the stalwart HOZACs, and ignored the moment someone wants to knock out a load-bearing wall for a kombucha station.

Interior designers are playing their part too, tearing out smoky fireplaces, painting over

yellowwood ("too yellow"), and installing "urban industrial fantasy" lighting in century-old cottages. Sometimes it works. Other times... not so much.

Locals, meanwhile, oscillate between amusement and despair. WhatsApp groups are ablaze with zoomed-in shots of scaffolding and lively debates about "traditional roof pitch." One resident tried reporting an illegal build, only to be told TWK "isn't currently processing complaints." Too busy, perhaps, tracing lost tender funds.

What's next for Greyton? A clear development policy? Actual enforcement? A municipal official who answers their phone and knows what day it is? Let's not be ridiculous. For now, we sip our coffee, grumble politely (or not), and watch as our once-sleepy village is cheerfully reinvented—one rogue build, one surprise panhandle, and one wildly optimistic planning proposal at a time.



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Firing Up Safety: Greyton's First Fire Truck Transforms Local Emergency Response

Gavin Jones

The arrival of our own fire truck marks a major milestone for Greyton. For years, our volunteers had to rely on the old ODM truck, personal vehicles, or wait for assistance from Overberg District Municipality, often losing precious time during emergencies. Now, with a fully equipped truck of our own, we can respond faster, carry more gear, and reach remote areas more efficiently. It has truly transformed how we operate and significantly improved the safety of our community.

The support from our community has been absolutely overwhelming, and we're truly humbled by the generosity and trust placed in us. Raising R700,000 was a monumental goal, yet Greyton came together with determination and heart, showing just how much this village values safety, resilience, and collective action. For our team, it's been an incredible boost to morale, knowing our efforts are not only recognised but actively championed. And for the residents, there's a real sense of shared achievement and pride. This

fire truck is more than just a vehicle, it's a powerful symbol of what we can accomplish when we stand together. From all of us, thank you, Greyton. We couldn't have done this without you.



The key advantages are faster response times, greater autonomy, and improved operational readiness. In emergencies, whether it's a wildfire or a structural fire, every minute matters. With our own fire truck, we're no longer dependent on ODM's dispatch system or forced

to rely on personal vehicles. We're also free from the delays often caused by ODM's procurement process, which historically slowed down essential repairs and servicing. Now, we can mobilise immediately with a fully equipped vehicle that carries water, firefighting tools, and safety gear—everything we need in one place. This has streamlined our response and significantly increased both the safety of our team and the level of service we can provide to the community.

Owning a fire truck is a long-term responsibility. Beyond monthly insurance, fuel, and general maintenance, we also need to budget for servicing, equipment upgrades, and continuous training to keep the crew and vehicle in top shape. We're incredibly thankful for the donations that made this possible, but sustaining it requires ongoing support. The community can continue to help by donating via our Linktree page (<https://linktr.ee/greytonfirefighters>), attending fundraising events, or even volunteering time or expertise. Every bit goes a long way toward keeping Greyton safe and our truck ready for action.



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Empowering Youth with Sunset Group Walks

Ruwayda Rinqest

The Sunset Group, a youth walking initiative in Greyton, is run by Ruwayda Rinqest Sunset Ladies founder and Ronald

Stanfield, a key figure in the local Rugby community and a player for the Greyton Sports Club. Ronald dedicates his time to leading youth on walks. The two groups are separate but share support, which encourages Sunset



Ladies members to support the new initiative by involving their children on these walks. On 15 March 2025, the group's first walk in Pringle Bay at Hangklip Nature Reserve was a success, with all participants reaching the summit. Afterwards, they enjoyed refreshments

at Lemon and Lime Restaurant for an ice cream at Kleinmondstrand before cheering on Ronald's Rugby match. Sunset Group invites all primary and high school learners to be part of it. We walk on various mountains monthly.

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Stronger Together: Building Resilient Communities for the Future

The Rotary Club of Greyton is absolutely thrilled and deeply honoured to be welcoming Premier Alan Winde to our beautiful village on the 9th of May to participate in the next of our series of talks entitled 'In Conversation With ...', moderated by Michael Haupt. This is a truly special moment for us, and we couldn't be more excited to share it with our members, friends, and the broader Greyton community.

Premier Winde's visit is not just an official event — it feels like a celebration of community, connection, and shared purpose. His dedication to uplifting the Western Cape, his approachable leadership style, and his genuine passion for empowering people align so closely with the heart of what we do at Rotary. We are eager to hear his insights, learn from his experiences, and discuss how we can work together to make our region even stronger and more resilient.

As a club built on service and community spirit, this occasion fills us

with pride. It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the incredible work being done by our members and to share the stories of the people who make Greyton such a special place. We know that

Premier Winde values these grassroots efforts, and we look forward to an inspiring exchange of ideas and energy.

More than anything, we see

this visit as a celebration of hope and collaboration. It reminds us that when we come together — leaders, volunteers, and community members alike — there is no limit to what we can achieve. We are grateful for Premier Winde's time and interest, and we are certain this gathering will leave us all feeling inspired and motivated to continue our efforts with renewed passion.

With open arms and warm hearts, we welcome Premier Winde to Greyton and to our Rotary family. Here's to an unforgettable evening of connection, conversation, and community!



Date: 9th May 2025

Venue: St Andrew's Anglican Church Hall, 3 Jones Street, Greyton

Time: 5.00pm for 5.30pm sharp

Cost: Free, but cash donations to The Rotary Club of Greyton gratefully received

Tickets: Please contact Kim Crosby on 060 904 5373 to reserve your seat

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Coenie Visser: The Maestro Behind Greyton Genadendal's 'Classics for All' Festival

The 21st Greyton Genadendal Classics for All Festival is set to delight music enthusiasts from May 9th to 11th, featuring ten diverse musical performances. These range from solo recitals to large choral and orchestral concerts, showcasing a rich tapestry of sounds.

Behind every grand event is a master planner, and for this festival, it's none other than Coenie Visser. Known to long-time Greyton residents and perhaps a new face to recent arrivals, Coenie is a figure of charm, energy, and innovative ideas, often seen in his trademark casual attire.

Coenie's journey began with a BA Honours in Languages from the Universities of Stellenbosch and Cape Town, followed by further studies at the University of Reykjavik in Iceland. His career took him from reporting at Die Burger to lecturing at Cape Peninsula University of Technology, covering subjects from Xhosa to Journalism.

His connection to Greyton started in 1994 during an art exhibition visit with his partner. Falling in love with the village, they purchased a property and transformed a near-derelict building on Ds Botha Street into the popular Oak & Vigne Café. This venture introduced the first cappuccino and croissant to the village, setting a trend for future coffee shops.

Coenie's flair for events saw the Oak &

Vigne hosting various themed evenings, from Turkish dinners with belly dancing to celebrity chef nights, including one with Jenny Morris, the Giggling Gourmet. These gatherings not only enlivened Greyton's social scene but



also showcased his knack for community engagement.

His deeper involvement in community

life led him to chair the Winter Festival Committee and handle media and marketing for the Greyton Tourism Committee. It was here that he pioneered the annual Music Festival, aiming to offer something distinct from the typical

Afrikaans music festivals in other villages. This initiative not only provided a stage for local talents like the Genadendal Brass Band but also supported the development of local musicians, with festival profits aiding this cause.

Coenie's life took a turn in 2014 when he accepted a corporate language consultant role in Bangkok, where he now conducts Business English workshops for executives. Despite relocating, he continues to orchestrate the festival with the help of Leone Rouillard and a dedicated committee back in Greyton.

Although he's no longer a resident, Coenie maintains his ties to the village as co-owner of the Oak and Vigne complex and as the director of the 'Classics for All' Festival. His legacy in Greyton is marked not only by his contributions to its cultural life but also by the relationships he fostered, particularly in Heuvelkroon and Genadendal, aiming to bridge communities through the power of music.

For everything that Coenie has accomplished and continues to contribute, Greyton says, "Thank you, Coenie."

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Action Speaks Louder Than Words



Toni Youngusband

Animal rescue organisations are frequently criticised for not taking immediate and drastic action when someone reports hearing about or witnessing a distressing act of cruelty. It's important, however, to understand and appreciate the steps that must be taken before action—legal or otherwise—can be taken to apprehend an animal abuser.

Here are some real-life examples:

“My neighbour’s gardener told me there’s a cow being abused in his village but he doesn’t want to be identified. Animal welfare must do something about these incidents.”

Without identifying the time, place, nature of the abuse, identity of the abuser and physical evidence (the injured animal, or a video or photo), the welfare organisation cannot ask law enforcement authorities to act. Hearsay is not permissible in court. For prosecution to take place, a body of evidence must be placed before the court, including photographic or video material and signed witness affidavits.

“There was a young boy on a horse galloping down Main Road. Why aren’t you doing anything?”

If you witnessed this incident and it was distressing, did you try to stop the boy?

Did you call law enforcement? Did you take a video or photo? Did you notice the colour and size of the animal? Are you able to guess the approximate age of the boy? Can you identify him in any way—jeans, purple sweater, cap? There are more than 400 horses roaming our Valley, many of whom are used as taxis without their owners’ knowledge. Without a thorough description and preferably video evidence, it’s impossible to act.

“Why doesn’t welfare stop all these people from having so many dogs and horses?”

Animal ownership is subject to municipal bylaws which can only be enforced by officers of the law. Animal welfare organisations do their best to encourage animal owners to sterilise their animals, but we cannot force them to do so. Concerned citizens can support these organisations by sponsoring sterilisations and by encouraging friends and acquaintances to have their animals sterilised too. It is important to note that bylaws restrict the number of animals individual households may own. This applies to all animal owners, regardless of how well or otherwise an animal is cared for—so before pointing fingers...

Animal welfare organisations are generally severely underfunded and understaffed. Most of the work is done by volunteers. The more people willing to step up to assist, rather than to voice opinions, the more effective these organisations will be.

For assistance with animal welfare issues:

**Law Enforcement – TWK
Operational Control Centre:
080 021 4730**

Greyton Animal Welfare Society (GAWS): Office 071 105 0366 | WhatsApp Emergency 064 984 0675

EARS Donkey Sanctuary (horses, donkeys): 082 660 6714 / 082 509 6870

Greyton Farm Animal Sanctuary (cows, sheep, pigs): 082 558 7752



Photo credit: Greyton Photography

Welcome to Overstory

Nestled beneath the mountain, just 10km from the charming village of Greyton, Overstory offers a tranquil escape on a 12 hectare property surrounded by a working fruit farm. This peaceful haven is a place where natural beauty and stillness come together inviting you to unwind and reconnect with nature.

For more information whatsapp Jo 083 327 6502 or email josedgwick@twk.co.za.



Sarah Beyers and Butler: A Story of Loyalty and Care



In the heart of Genadendal, Sarah Beyers stands as a paragon of dedication to animal care. A long-standing attendee of the Greyton Animal Welfare Sanctuary (GAWS), Sarah's routine visits with her pets have become a symbol of her commitment to pet health and welfare.

Sarah and her trio of dogs are regulars at GAWS, with at least seven clinic visits each year spanning almost a decade, demonstrating her serious approach and commitment to their health and well-being.

The bond between Sarah and Butler, her oldest dog, illustrates the profound emotional connection that can grow from such dedication. This relationship underscores



the importance of regular visits in enhancing the lives of pets, allowing them to not just live but thrive under the care of their owners.

Their story is an inspiring reminder of the deep, enduring connections that diligent care can foster between pets and owners. Sarah and Butler's journey together exemplifies the best outcomes of devoted pet care with the support of GAWS, serving as an inspiring model for all pet owners.



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Greyton Animal Welfare Society: GAWS Renovation Project



Leon Perold

The GAWS Board is, with tail-wagging delight, announcing that, through various local community funding and sponsors, we are able to start our Kennels Renovation Project.

Following the signing of the Lease with TWK to secure the Greyton kennels, the next milestone is to provide working plans and procedures to complete the upgrade of the existing site.

The GAWS team is working towards bringing the kennels up to the highest standard we can achieve to help improve the welfare of animals in Greyton, Genadendal and surrounds.

"We want all Greytonians, and visitors to Greyton to feel that they can leave their pets at a place that offers a warm and welcoming haven for their pets with a safe, nurturing environment where your pets are treated like family.

We will regularly keep the community up to date on social media with the roll out, and there will be opportunities for pet owners and sponsors to get involved with the naming and opening of the new boarding kennels."

GAWS will continue to offer all their other community projects, like spaying, adoption and medical care whilst the kennels are being upgraded.

Follow us on our Facebook page: greytonanimalwelfareociety or website.



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Guarding History: A Conversation with Judith Balie, Director of the Genadendal Museum

Judith, the Genadendal Mission Museum is steeped in rich history. Could you tell us a little about the origins of the museum?

Of course! Genadendal Mission Museum holds a special place in South Africa's history as the site of the first mission station, founded in 1737 by Georg Schmidt. It preserves the legacy of Genadendal's role in education, music, and craftsmanship. The museum showcases artifacts reflecting the town's rich cultural and spiritual heritage, including the oldest fire engine in South Africa, the oldest knives made in Genadendal and a collection of historic tools, musical instruments, and household items. It's truly a place where history comes alive.

As Director, what does a typical day look like for you at the museum, and what are some of the challenges you face in this role?

No two days are ever the same! My day often starts with overseeing the collections — ensuring that artifacts are properly preserved and catalogued. I also manage HR, oversee outreach and educational programs, and plan both temporary and permanent exhibitions. Marketing and promotion are key to attracting visitors and funding. A major challenge is securing resources to maintain and expand the museum's offerings while balancing the need to keep our history accessible and engaging. But the reward of seeing visitors connect with our history makes it all worthwhile!

The museum is a treasure trove of history and culture. Could you highlight one or two exhibits that particularly resonate with visitors and why?

Absolutely! One of the standout exhibits is the Printing History Museum, which houses the historic Albion press. This press was used to print some of the first schoolbooks in South Africa and, at one point, was the only press in the country capable of printing music notation sheets. It's incredible to see how this single machine shaped education and music in South Africa. Another favorite is the collection of handmade tools and musical instruments, which reflect the skill and creativity of Genadendal's early community.

Education is a vital part of any museum's role. How does the Genadendal Museum engage with local schools or community groups to promote heritage awareness?

Education is at the heart of what we do. With my postgraduate degree in Education, I'm passionate about creating meaningful learning experiences. We host interactive school programs where students can explore historical artifacts,

try their hand at traditional crafts, and learn about Genadendal's place in South Africa's history. Public and outreach programs also play a crucial role in connecting with the community. A recent example is the Human Rights Day outreach program co-hosted with Genadendal Child Welfare, where we cleaned up part of Kersiedorp and organized a fun day for the local kids. We also run an annual school speech competition tied to International Museums Day, where learners are encouraged to explore their connection to history and reflect on the role of museums in society. It's rewarding to see how these programs foster a sense of pride and ownership in our shared heritage.

Visitor experience is crucial. What unique activities or experiences can visitors look forward to when they visit the museum?

Visitors to the Genadendal Mission Museum can expect an enriching and hands-on experience. A must-see is the Old Watermill, where live demonstrations bring traditional milling techniques to life. Another highlight is the historic Pear Tree, which stands today from the same root system planted by Georg Schmidt — a living symbol of Genadendal's enduring legacy. The Cottage Museum, one of the first guest houses in the interior, features a unique cow dung smeared floor, offering a rare glimpse into the humble beginnings of Genadendal. After the tour, visitors can relax at the Living Grace Nursery, where cultivated medicinal plants and our signature Honeybush Iced Tea — available at the Visitors Centre — provide a refreshing taste of Genadendal's heritage.

How has the museum adapted to the digital age? Are there virtual tours or online resources that remote enthusiasts can access?

We've embraced the digital age with open arms! Our new virtual tour, available on our website, allows visitors to explore the museum from anywhere in the world. It's a wonderful way to experience the history and stories of Genadendal even if you can't visit in person. We've also launched a pilot research project to digitize our historical manuscripts and artifacts using AI technology. This means that rare and delicate items can be preserved and accessed by researchers and history lovers

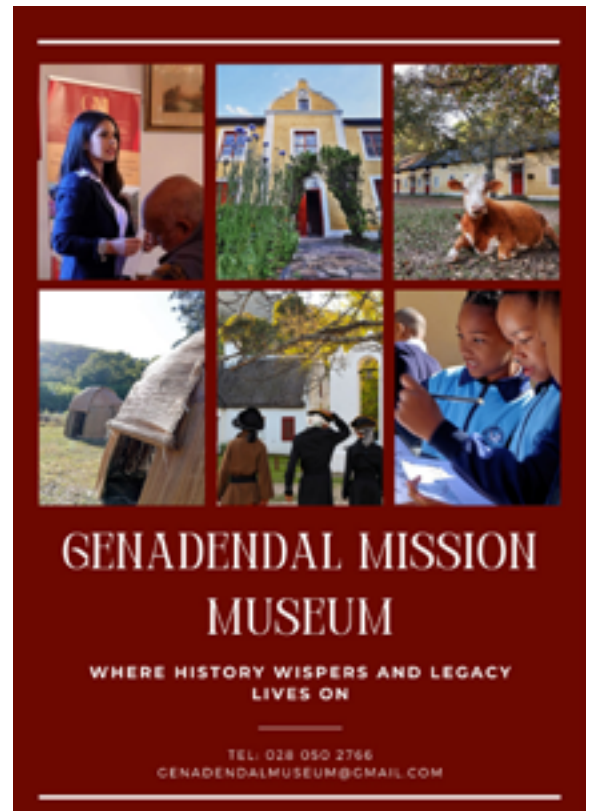
globally, ensuring that Genadendal's legacy lives on for future generations.

Looking forward, are there any upcoming events or exhibitions at the Genadendal Museum that you are particularly excited about?

We're absolutely thrilled about the upcoming Afrikaans 100 Festival and commemorative reading on 9 May 2025 in the Genadendal Moravian Church, followed by a unique luncheon celebrating the rich heritage of the Overberg. This event holds a special place for us as it marks the pivotal role that Genadendal played in the development of the Afrikaans language. We look forward to celebrating the rich linguistic and cultural history of the region with our community and visitors alike, showcasing Genadendal's important contribution to the Afrikaans language and heritage.

Finally, for someone planning their first visit to the museum, what are the must-see parts of the museum, and do you have any tips for making the most of their visit?

For first-time visitors, the Old Watermill demonstration, the iconic Pear Tree, the Cottage Museum, and the La Trobe Wagon House which houses the oldest ox-wagon in South Africa, are all highlights. To truly immerse yourself in the experience, I recommend booking a guided tour beforehand to ensure you don't miss anything! **For bookings, please contact us at genadendalmuseum@gmail.com**



ALL EYES ON ARTISTS

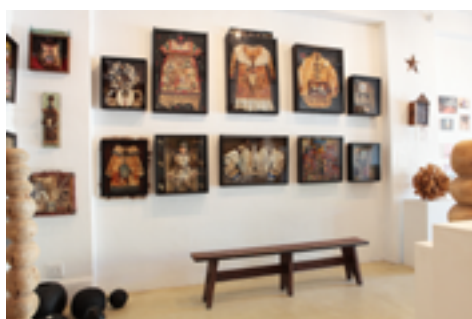
Wood for the Trees: Art that Surprises and Reveals

Tucked away within the bustling heart of Greyton, the Art of Compassion gallery—run by Nicola Vernon of the Greyton Animal Sanctuary—has become a sanctuary of a different kind. Curated by Christopher Parker, known locally and abroad as The Dead Botanist, the gallery's current exhibition *Wood for Trees* invites viewers to pause, look deeper, and uncover what lies beneath the surface. As Parker explains, "Sometimes, we are so focused on the detail that we can't see the bigger picture... and vice-versa." The artists featured in this collective are united by more than medium or theme—they are connected by curiosity, compassion, and a vision that mirrors Greyton's quiet depth.

Curator Parker insists that a great gallery must be "consistently changing, well curated, aesthetic—and challenging." This ethos is tangible throughout *Wood for Trees*, where every work reveals a different way of seeing the world.

Graeme Bramley, a product designer turned jeweller and welder, draws on his background in industrialisation to create intricate metal and wearable pieces, grounded in a design sensibility honed through years of exploration.

Michelle Holloway offers



Ronèl Wood is a multidisciplinary artist whose creative practice includes music, painting, writing, and ceramics. Her pottery, in particular, embraces the imperfect beauty

whimsical acrylic paintings that celebrate village life, vintage vehicles, animals, and the magic of daily joy. Her humour-driven pieces are now also coming to life through her new venture into animation.

Parker + Laird, the British duo, use reclaimed alien timber to craft hand-carved sculptures that honour sacred geometry and environmental responsibility. Their ongoing series "Arboretum" addresses global deforestation, turning discarded wood into poetic protest.

Rebecca Jones works in delicate detail, creating paper and wire floral sculptures inspired by the overlooked—plants, weeds, and twigs. Her pieces blur the boundary between two- and three-dimensional space.



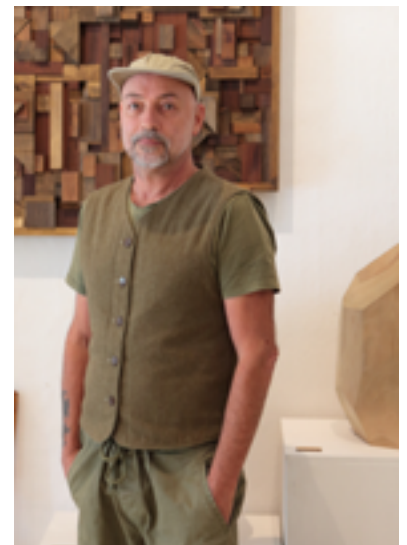
of the handmade, echoing her spiritual and artistic depth.

Christopher Parker (The Dead Botanist)

creates eerie, glowing ecosystems sealed in glass. Using local plant life and precise preservation methods, his work imagines a future in which flora evolve into new, otherworldly forms.

Thomas Cartwright

paints with bold colour and quiet meaning. After surviving cancer, his art deepened to reflect transformation and



storm-felled trees. Each work respects nature's original design while adding human craftsmanship.

Adriaan Basson works intuitively, often using driftwood and natural materials he finds while exploring. His art reflects a minimalist approach to life—accepting nature's offerings and creating with purpose.

Carol Gibbs, an assemblage artist and writer, creates emotional resonance through her collection of discarded treasures. Her works of collected history become dreamscapes that speak to memory, nostalgia, and wonder.

Wood for the Trees is on now at the Art of Compassion gallery in Greyton. It is a must-visit for anyone who enjoys art that whispers, challenges, and reveals what often goes unseen.

gratitude. He draws inspiration from Japanese woodblock printing, fusing tradition with personal story.

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Building Plans: Key Information for Residents and Property Owners

Planning to renovate or add to your property? It's vital to ensure your building plans meet all regulations and standards before any work begins. Here's a comprehensive guide to help you navigate the process effectively and avoid delays or penalties.

1. Appointing a Registered Professional

- You must hire a professional registered with the **South African Council of Architectural Professions (SACAP)**. They must be in good standing with SACAP, and their registration category must authorize them to draft your proposed building plans.
- If your project is outside their scope, they must obtain a **Limited Special Dispensation Letter** from SACAP.
- Visit www.sacapsa.com for more information or to report unethical practices.

2. Building Plan Approvals

- All building works must be approved by the **Building Control Office** before starting. For minor building works, written confirmation from the building control officer is necessary to determine if an application is required.
- Applications are processed electronically, streamlining feedback and approvals. Ensure you obtain copies of **approved building plans** and an **Occupancy Certificate** for all work done on a property.

3. Supporting Documents

To avoid delays, ensure your submission includes the following:

For Private Owners:

- Copy of registered **Title Deed**.
- Registered **Surveyor General**

Diagram.

- Relevant **SANS 10400-A Forms** (Edition 4).
- **SACAP Architectural Compliance Certificate**.
- Building Control Municipal Application Form.
- **Certificate of Good Standing** for your SACAP professional.
- **Limited Special Dispensation Letter** (if applicable).
- 1 set of building plans (new work in color, "as-built" work must also be clearly indicated).
- Please note that the Local Authority may require additional documents and information.

4. Other Key Requirements

- Applications must comply with the **National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act 103 of 1977 (NBR)**. This includes seeking comments from relevant departments like **Technical Services** in Greyton, **Electrical Services** in Caledon, and the **Overberg District Municipality Fire and Health Department**.
- Contact **Town Planning** in Theewaterskloof Municipality for zoning and heritage compliance. In Greyton, consult bodies like the **Greyton Aesthetic (Advisory) Committee** and **Greyton Conservation Society** for guidance on historical or aesthetic considerations.

5. Timelines and Feedback

- For projects under 500m², feedback is typically provided within 30 days; for larger projects, it may take 60 days. The Building Control Office strives to deliver responses within 15 working days.

6. Consequences of Non-Compliance

Building without approvals can result in:

- **Stop Work Notices** or fines.
- Delays due to town planning applications triggered by non-compliance with zoning schemes.
- Potential criminal charges.

7. Additional Resources

- **National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBCR)**: Visit www.nhbrc.org.za for requirements on new dwellings and to report unethical practices.
- **Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA)**: Visit www.ecsa.co.za for engineering-related queries or complaints.

8. Tips for Success

- Always consult the **Building Control** and **Town Planning** Departments before starting your project.
- Ensure your professional is knowledgeable about relevant building codes and standards.
- Conduct thorough research to identify any limitations or restrictions that may affect your plans.

Adhering to these guidelines will save time, prevent unnecessary costs, and ensure your project runs smoothly. For further information, visit the **Theewaterskloof Municipality** office or contact the Building Control Section directly.

Greyton contact: Orlando Hector, Building Inspector, Town Planning and Building Control Department: 063 708 1961

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It Takes a Valley: A Conversation with Simon Struben

Simon Struben is no stranger to rolling up his sleeves. From fighting fires to tackling conservation and keeping our streets safe, he's one of those rare community members who says, "I'll do it," and means it.

So what inspired him to get involved in the first place?

"Too often we hear people say, 'Someone should do something about it,'" he says. "Eventually, I realised I could be that someone. If we're going to be part of this village, we must step up." Whether it's his lifelong passion for nature and horses, or ensuring our valley is prepared for emergencies, Simon's dedication is clear.

His motivation? It comes in moments. A successful operation with SAPS officers like Captain Louw, WO Prins, and WO Duminy. Seeing fellow volunteers like Gavin, Andrew and Les contain a fire just in time. Watching Penny, Brian and their EARS and GAWS teams rescue an injured animal. "It's in those times," he says, "I feel it's all worthwhile."

Simon's past experience is as varied as his current roles. After graduating from UCT in Environmental Science and Archaeology, he spent 30 years in industrial project management across Africa and the Middle East. Ironically, those years in environmentally unfriendly industries gave him the insight to influence better practices. "I realised that wherever we are, we face challenges—but someone has to step up. So I did."

One unforgettable experience? The major fire that threatened Greyton. "The way Greyton, Heuwelkroon and Bosmanskloof communities came together was extraordinary," he recalls. "And it's not just the big fires—on smaller ones too, people have pitched in, hauling hoses over fences, helping with true spirit. That's the resilience of our community."

Conservation also plays a big role in Simon's volunteer life. Conservation also plays a big role in Simon's volunteer life. "The conflict between people and nature is constant," he notes. "But thanks to the work of Helen Moss, Rupert, Julian, and

our ranger team, we're starting to make a dent—especially in tackling invasive species." He says highlights include joining the heli-hack events and helping upgrade the ranger station at the nature reserve entrance.

Simon is also a trained patroller with the 'Community in Blue' (CIB) initiative. "These young volunteers from Bereaville, Voorstekraal, Genadendal, Heuwelkroon and Bosmanskloof give so much of themselves. Often unpaid, they've made a huge impact on crime in Greyton." He's



quick to praise the SAPS team under Captain Louw and says the collaboration between the four neighbourhood watch and CIB is one of his proudest involvements.

And at home? His wife is understanding—mostly. "She knows I'm driven to help," he chuckles, "though I'm reminded I'm less helpful around the house. But despite the late nights and smoke-stained clothes, she supports me, and I'm grateful for that."

When asked which role he finds most rewarding, Simon struggles to choose. "They all mean something. The animal action group, the fire team—which is, frankly, a crazy and committed bunch—the conservation work, the craft market... But where I feel I can make the biggest impact is in community safety." As Chair of the Greybos NHW and Vice Chair of the Genadendal CPF, he helps shape how our region tackles crime and builds resilience.

His advice to new volunteers? "If you've ever said 'someone should do something', look in the mirror. But don't start unless you're committed. People will depend on you. Yes, there'll be criticism, and yes, it can be thankless. But the reward lies in knowing you've helped your community."

He adds, "It takes a village to make a difference. Every person in our Valley of Six can be part of something special. Just try."

Say Goodbye to Paperwork: Deeds Office Goes Digital

Christelle Pansegrouw

In a significant move towards modernising property transactions, the Cape Town Deeds Office began implementing the Electronic Deeds Registration System (eDRS) on 1 April 2025. This development follows the Electronic Deeds Registration Systems Act 19 of 2019 and forms part of a nationwide initiative to digitise South Africa's land registration processes.

The introduction of eDRS represents a pivotal shift away from traditional paper-based methods, replacing them with a streamlined digital platform. This new system allows for the electronic

preparation, lodgement, registration, execution, and storage of deeds and associated documents. The goals are clear: to improve efficiency, shorten turnaround times, reduce administrative burdens, and enhance security in property transactions.

The Department of Land Reform and Rural Development has outlined a vision for a fully digital deeds registration process by 2030. In the interim, a "Dual Registration Process" will be in effect—allowing conveyancers the flexibility to choose between manual and electronic lodgement and registration for the next five years as the industry adapts.

Key Features and Benefits of eDRS:

- **Remote Accessibility:** Conveyancing practitioners can now lodge deeds from anywhere in the country, reducing the need for physical visits to the Deeds Office.
- **Public Access to Information:** A new online portal offers the public direct access to information on registered deeds and documents, enhancing transparency.
- **Enhanced Security:** The platform includes advanced cybersecurity features to protect against fraud and

unauthorised access.

As a legal firm working daily within the conveyancing sphere, we are optimistic about the transformative potential of eDRS. While we recognise that change can be challenging, we also see this as a much-needed step forward—one that will reduce errors associated with manual processes and speed up the property transfer timeline for our clients.

In the words of Barack Obama, "Change is never easy, but always possible." With eDRS, the conveyancing profession is taking a bold step into a more efficient, accessible, and secure future.



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Greyton Village Property Market: What the Numbers Say

Over the past two years, Greyton's property market has quietly shifted. A detailed analysis of 2023 and 2024 sales reveals interesting trends in pricing, especially when we group properties by size. We looked at more than a hundred local property sales and sorted them into five categories: small (under 750m²), compact residential (750–1,500m²), mid-size residential (1,500–3,000m²), large residential (3,000–10,000m²), and farms (over 10,000m²). This helped us understand price changes across the wide range of property sizes in our village.

Small Homes, Big Demand

Smaller plots and cottages (under 750m²) are in high demand. The price per square meter rose from R7,383 in 2023 to R7,758 in 2024. These homes appeal to buyers wanting manageable spaces—ideal for retirees, singles, or young families entering the market. A total of 11 small properties were sold in 2023 and 10 in 2024.

Compact Residential Category

Compact residential properties (750–1,500m²) remained the most active market, with 16 sales in 2023 and 19 in 2024. Prices dipped slightly from R3,139/m² to R3,005/m² but remain strong. These properties strike a balance between size and affordability.

Steady Middle Ground

Mid-size homes between 1,500m² and 3,000m² have shown consistent pricing over both years, holding at around R2,117 per square metre. This suggests stability and makes them a solid option for buyers looking for space without the scale of a smallholding. Sales volume was steady, with 14 sold in 2023 and 15 in 2024.

Big Plots, Rising Prices

Larger residential plots and lifestyle properties (3,000–10,000m²) saw a jump in value. Prices per square metre rose nearly 50%, from R472 to R692. This may reflect a growing interest in country living and the desire for more outdoor space. Sales increased slightly from 11 to 13 year on year.

Farms: From Fringe to Focus

Though few, farm sales saw a dramatic price jump. In 2023, they sold for around R24/m². In 2024, that shot up to R186/m². While only 1 farm was sold in 2023 and 2 in 2024, it may hint at increased interest in rural or agricultural land.

What Might 2025 Bring?

If the current patterns continue, we expect strong demand in the smaller and mid-size residential categories. Large plots and farms could grow further if lifestyle buyers keep showing interest.

For buyers, the message is act soon, especially if you're shopping for a compact or mid-size home. For sellers, particularly in the small and large residential categories, the market is on your side.

Overall, total house sales were similar across the years: 53 in 2023 and 59 in 2024, suggesting a stable and active local market.

We'll continue to watch how the village evolves. As always, your comments and local insights are welcome!



Graph: Bar chart showing median price per square metre for 2023 and 2024 across property size categories.

Data sourced from local sales records from Lightstone property data in association with the Deeds Office.



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Estate Planning and Easy Mistakes to Avoid: It All Starts with an Updated Will

Claire Moorhouse

Did you know that approximately 86% of South Africans have not made plans for their death? Setting up a last will and testament can bring thoughts of mortality, so many people tend to put it off. But planning your estate is one of the most important things you can do for your loved ones.

The primary reason to plan your estate is to ensure your money and assets are inherited by the people you choose. Another key reason is to ensure that your

estate attracts as little tax as possible. A Will plays a major role in this process. An up-to-date Will correctly reflects your wishes. Even if you don't have many assets, having a Will can save your beneficiaries time, money, and emotional stress. Without one, it could take months to sort out your affairs.

If you pass away without a Will, you die 'intestate'. The court then takes over, creating a Will on your behalf based on national laws and dividing your estate accordingly. During this time, funds needed for burial or everyday living may be

frozen, and your estate may be charged thousands in unnecessary expenses.

Why You Should Have a Will:

- You have full control over who inherits your belongings, including specific items like cars or family heirlooms.
- You can ensure a smooth transition of business interests or investments.
- You can appoint guardians and make financial provisions for minor children.
- Children from a previous marriage can be included in your estate plan.

- A Will can help avoid family disputes and preserve harmony.
- You can leave a lasting legacy by supporting a charity of your choice.
- A properly drafted Will allows you to plan for debts, costs, and taxes—avoiding the forced sale of assets to create cash.

Putting a Will in place doesn't need to be daunting. Seek professional help if needed, and make sure it is kept updated. It's a powerful step toward peace of mind—for you and those you leave behind.



Claire Moorhouse

WEALTH MANAGER, CAPE TOWN

With over two decades' experience in the financial services industry, both locally and globally, Claire's experience as a Wealth Manager is invaluable. She is dedicated to building lasting relationships with her clients and assisting them in achieving their long-term financial goals. By working for companies including HSBC, Citadel, and Investec, being based in London, New York, and Hong Kong, she gained an impressive knowledge of Capital Markets, Wealth- and Asset Management, Investment- and Private Banking, and Financial- and Estate Planning.

In addition to her extensive industry knowledge, Claire holds a B-Comm in Economics (UCT) and advanced her international studies while abroad earning CISI Board Certification in Capital Markets, which includes UK Financial Regulation, Securities and Derivatives. In an ongoing demonstration of her commitment to ethical and compliant practices, she successfully passed the FAIS Regulatory Exam for Representatives (RE5).

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Sustainable Safety is up to Everyone: Greybos Neighbourhood Watch update

Greybos Neighbourhood Watch (GNW) continues to work towards making Greyton and its surrounding villages safer for residents and visitors. But we can only succeed by working together. Please pay attention to basic precautions around your homes and workplaces while we strive to keep criminal elements out.

Night patrols

Following the success of our festive season night patrols, GNW reinstated the patrols over the Easter weekend, the Greyton Genadendal Classics for All weekend from 9 to 11 May, and Greyton Fire & Wine, to take place in July. All this has been funded by your generous donations. A warm thank you to APS for helping to manage this initiative on behalf of the community.

Last year the period from June to September saw a spike in break-ins to homes and vehicles. We would like to implement patrols more regularly over weekend events and to respond to increases in criminal activity. This will require additional funding to pay and transport

our patrollers.

Please stay vigilant and advise your weekend and holiday visitors to do the same. The safer our village, the more financial support we'll receive from visitors, and the more we can do to improve life for all in the valley.

Other initiatives

Great news is that various additional initiatives are up and running to assist us in our role as your neighbourhood watch and support the ever-strengthening collaboration between GNW and SAPS.

We are delighted at the successful collaboration between SAPS, the CIB (Community in Blue, a SAPS-driven initiative), and GNW in high visibility foot and vehicle patrols. The CIB programme is open to anybody in the community who wishes to get involved in patrolling. Please contact Simon Struben (simon@strubenprojects.co.za) for details.

Neighbourhood watch training is also planned for Greybos residents and we

hope to work much more closely with this community in future.

Our thanks to POCS (Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety) for supplying a range of practical equipment to aid in our community safety projects.

The new Regional Community Safety Forum was launched on 1 April with GNW participation. This forum will create an integrated community safety programme for all Theewaterskloof municipal areas.

So there is a lot going on in the interests of safety and security in our valley. Please do your bit to keep yourself, your loved ones, and your community safe.



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The Greyton Cliffhanger *Part 2*

Shani Delpont



When the search for happiness began, the sun had, had a chance to tickle the sky.

The bones which felt broken, relished in the leftover sun-aches, released by the sky.

The story soon rolled out on a tongue that knew how to speak with a sunlit tone. "The sun is a faithful friend that spreads its cheerfulness upon

those who wish to sit still under its 'feelers'. So, with each limb sun-bathing, the soul begins to bravely breathe again – stretching arms to the sky – only sunspots within reach." Bright lips were moving, only giving but a chance for the sun to look down and own its story of soothing souls. It was to be made known that if your soul was sore, you needed only to sit upon step with sun above. No matter if the summer or winter sun was in the sky, both had the same joyous face of the lady with the sun-like-voice who had joined him on the steps.

So, the traveller took the token offered by the sunbeam lady and lifted his sore bum from the steps that had all the sun in the world to enjoy. It was soon time for the night's sun to be welcomed and he always had

a way of escaping the chills that came with it.

When day broke, with the same sun to greet – a smile was held generously up to the sky. It was time to meet the farmer, the elderly sunshook lady had delved into like a bud in precious soil. To know hands that dug up the sun's mirth everyday would be like having come across hands that could heal. So, with little but a worry, he set out and the sun led the way.

With not a sweat broken and a heart thumping forth, he soon found a field of green upbringings, seeds sown with sun-hands and he was sure this was where goodness grew in full swing. A man appeared with sunlines, but a soaring smile and he introduced himself almost immediately with a happy thrum in his voice. "Hi, I'm Jahah!" His hands had indeed been yellowed by

sun. He explained each sunspot he had created and how he fed his community with the help of the sun's light. That he, too, had been crafted by the sun over the years like we all are. The round ball of sun, he held onto, had been instrumental in how he healed both his soul and his piece of land.

The traveller took off his sun-burnt boots and felt the sun-drenched earth beneath with warm sun-tickled feet. He took in the vivid green, as well with happiness. He knew rather soon, the winter would allow the greenery to lean on its rest...

and he would have to soak in the shy bits of the winter sun – for he had yet to meet the heart of the sun...

To be continued (in part three)

Make sure to follow each story part.



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Savouring the Sip: A Wine Lover's Guide to Tasting

Expert Insights from
Hilary du Toit, Lismore Wines

Wine tasting is not just about enjoying your favorite glass; it's an art that involves engaging all your senses to appreciate the complexities and delights that each wine offers. Hilary, a noted wine expert, shares her insights into mastering the art of wine tasting, making each sip a more informed and enjoyable experience.

Understanding Wine Through Sight and Smell

Begin your wine tasting experience by observing the wine's color and clarity. Whether it's a deep ruby red or a pale gold, each hue tells a story about the wine's age and grape variety. Swirling the wine gently in the glass not only prepares you for tasting but also reveals the wine's body or alcohol content based on how it clings to the glass. The next step involves the nose — take a moment to inhale deeply and identify primary aromas such as fruit, floral, or herbaceous notes. This preliminary interaction sets the stage for the actual tasting.

The Tasting Journey

When you sip the wine, let it coat your palate, and consider its characteristics. Is the wine dry or sweet? What about its acidity and tannins? Reflecting on

these aspects helps in understanding the wine's body and alcohol content. Finally, the finish — the flavors that linger after swallowing — adds another layer to your understanding. Each of these steps enhances your appreciation and enjoyment of the wine, making the tasting process a comprehensive sensory journey.

Key Elements to Focus On

To delve deeper into a wine's profile and quality during a tasting, start by assessing its balance. A well-balanced wine should harmonize its sweetness, acidity, alcohol, and tannins. Also, consider the intensity and complexity of the wine. High-quality wines often have pronounced aromas and layered flavors that evolve with each sip. Don't overlook the structure — whether the wine feels light or full-bodied, and the persistence of the finish. The texture or mouthfeel also plays a critical role in distinguishing a good wine from a great one. Additionally, typicity is essential — how well the wine represents its grape variety and origin.

Influence of the Overberg Region

The unique environmental conditions of the Overberg region, encompassing a range from Extreme Continental to Maritime climates, significantly influence the flavors and aromas of Lismore wines. The warm days and cool nights,

combined with diverse soil types, create ideal conditions for growing expressive and nuanced grapes. The cool temperatures help retain acidity, bringing freshness and vibrancy to the wines. From the full-bodied, elegant Lismore Sauvignon Blanc with its flinty minerality to the aromatic Lismore Age of Grace Viognier with its textured palate of tropical fruits, the terroir of Overberg allows for refined, site-driven wines with depth and character.

Wines to Develop Your Palate

For those new to wine tasting, exploring specific wines can greatly enhance your palate. The Lismore Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, sourced from premier vineyards, are excellent for understanding balance and complexity. The full-bodied Lismore Syrah, with its bold yet refined flavors, serves as a perfect example of the quality that the Overberg region can produce.

Wine tasting is an enriching experience that goes beyond mere consumption. It is an exploration of culture, science, and art, allowing individuals to connect more deeply with the wine and its heritage. With these expert tips from Hilary, even novice tasters can start to explore the fascinating world of wines with confidence and curiosity.



The Tasting Room. The Courtyard, 13 DS Botha Street
wine@lismore.co.za, www.lismore.co.za

Greyton Mountain Marathon: Running for Education and Adventure

Greyton's most exciting trail event returns on Saturday 10 May, with the Greyton Mountain Marathon marking its first ever one-day, 42 km race. Now in its fifth year, the event has become a highly anticipated date on the calendar, attracting runners and nature lovers eager to explore the stunning mountain landscapes surrounding Greyton and Genadendal.

The 2025 route is a true adventure. The full marathon takes runners along the upper contours of the Sonderend Mountains, with 21 km through the pristine Nature Reserve and 21 km across the wild, rolling hills on the far side of the Riviersonderend River. Much of the trail ventures off established paths, covering unmarked terrain known only to seasoned hikers. It's a pure, raw mountain running experience.

New this year is the Greyton Mountain Half Marathon, a 21 km route with a more gentle 520 m elevation gain. Runners will enjoy smooth trails along the Bakenskop Mountain Bike Route, with breathtaking views of the mountains, farmlands and local wildlife.

The event is about more than just adventure – it's about education. All proceeds from the marathon support Greyton House Independent Village School and its Bursary Fund, which offers financial assistance to local children. Each step taken by participants helps create opportunities for young learners to access a holistic, creative education in a nurturing environment.

The town will be buzzing on the 10th! With over 100 runners expected,

accommodation is filling up quickly and local restaurants are preparing for a festive weekend. The event provides a welcome boost to the local economy, supporting guesthouses, eateries, shops and service providers throughout the area. It also highlights Greyton's incredible natural spaces and growing reputation as a trail running destination.

This year's marathon is more than just a race – it's a chance to make a real impact in the lives of children through education. Whether you're on the trail or cheering from the sidelines, this is a race that truly matters.

To find out more, contact greytontrail@greytonhouse.co.za or visit our website at www.greytontrail.co.za/ Spots can also be reserved for local high school runners who would like to join the 21 km race.



Update from GMTB Juniors

Nicky Burnell

Our Juniors continue to love life on 2 wheels and the growth continues!

We, sadly, have had to put our expansion down

the Valley on hold, due to commitments from their side, not being fulfilled. Disappointed children, but we will continue to try to include these keen children, working with other potential partners.

Maintaining 40 plus bikes

has its challenges and we are grateful to Overberg Cycling Association, who have donated money to get a mechanic in for a few sessions. Joost, a visitor to our village, spent valuable time in the shed, hard at work. It's folk like these, who help keep our wheels

turning. Thank you, Joost!

But as always, plenty of fun had and to the ladies at Pure Cafe and Maãnskyñ, thank you for facilitating our post ride snacks.

It truly does take a Village!

Book Review: Creation Lake by Rachel Kushner – Anarchy, agriculture, and prehistory in a spy thriller that makes you think

Bridget Impey

“Currently, he said, we are headed toward extinction in a shiny, driverless car, and the question is: How do we exit this car?”

American Sadie Smith (not her real name) is in France to infiltrate a radical farming commune, The Moulinards. Fired after a failed assignment, she’s now ex-FBI and working freelance. Her mission this time: to push the group toward committing more heinous crimes.

Sadie gains access to the group ‘accidentally’ through Lucien, who becomes her lover. She uses him in every way possible, installing sophisticated surveillance equipment in his remote family mansion. Through Lucien, she becomes the commune’s translator and gains insight into their inner workings.

Sadie is immune to the group’s ideals—they’re fighting a moral war against Big Agri and environmental destruction, but she’s there strictly for the paycheck. Tough, sexy, hard-drinking, and skilled,

Sadie isn’t working toward a greater good—only for the highest bidder.

The Moulinards take inspiration from 1960s revolutionary Bruno Lacombe, who now lives in a cave and believes humanity’s answers lie with the Neanderthals and an ancient way of life. As Sadie hacks into Bruno’s intelligent and philosophical emails, she begins to fall under his spell.

There are many characters in the commune, and I sometimes found it hard to keep track of them all. But what I loved most was watching Sadie unravel as Bruno’s musings start to affect her—she begins to feel more human.

There’s dark humour throughout, and probably quite a bit that went over my head. But as a 2024 Booker shortlisted, it’s beautifully written, clever, and thought-provoking.



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Blending Tradition with Style: Erna's Guide to Personalizing Your Home's Interior

Erna Moolman, a local interior decorator and the owner of Greyton Home Improvements, shares her expert advice on how to blend tradition with style—offering insightful guidance for homeowners embarking on their interior design journey. Here are some of her key points:

Starting the Design Journey

Begin by assessing your home's current layout and identifying areas that may need improvement. Consider your lifestyle, personal preferences, and the intended function of each space. Most importantly, create a clear vision and set a budget—these are essential first steps.

Using Mood Boards or Pinterest Boards

Visual tools such as mood boards or Pinterest boards are highly recommended. They help you gather inspiration and define a cohesive design direction. By compiling images, colours, and textures, homeowners can better visualise their ideas and ensure consistency in their

design choices.

Utilising Resources

Magazines, online platforms, and design blogs are valuable sources of both inspiration and practical advice. It's important to curate ideas that align with your vision and adapt them to suit your home's unique character.

Balancing Old and New

When integrating modern elements into a heritage-style home, focus on creating harmony. Choose key pieces that represent both eras, mix textures and materials thoughtfully, and use a cohesive colour palette to tie everything together. This approach ensures a seamless blend of tradition and modernity.

Reflecting Personal Style

To honour your home's heritage while expressing your personal style, incorporate meaningful items such as heirlooms or vintage artwork. Pair these with contemporary touches to create a space that feels both authentic and unique to you.

One legendary designer who emphasised staying true to your own style was Billy Baldwin, often referred to as the "Dean of American Decorating." He famously said, "Be faithful to your own taste because nothing you really like is ever out of style." Baldwin's philosophy centred around creating spaces that reflect the personality and preferences of the individual, rather than chasing trends.

Erna echoes this sentiment: "My personal advice to every homeowner and client is this—stay true to yourself. Friends and technology offer many ideas, but understanding who you are and what you truly like is often the key to a successful and fulfilling design journey."

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Horsemanship with Heart

Les Ansley, founder of 13th Rabbit Horsemanship, is quietly making a big difference in the lives of young people in our village. Each week, he runs a free horsemanship clinic on the Vlei, using gentle, thoughtful training methods to teach local youth how to build trust and respect with their horses. But as Les explains in the heartfelt reflection below, the lessons often go far beyond riding—and sometimes, what the horses teach us can change the way we treat each other.

‘There’s an old adage in horse training: work with the horse you’ve got. It means you can’t bring yesterday’s expectations into today’s session. You can’t assume the horse will perform today just because it did yesterday. You have to meet it where it is, in the moment. That principle has shaped not only how I work with horses, but also how I work with the youngsters in our village.

Once a week, on Thursday afternoons, I meet with a group of local boys and girls in an open park space. They bring their horses, and I try to teach them the fundamentals of horse training—how to build trust, how to lead gently, how to understand what the horse is trying to say.

Many of these kids haven’t had the easiest start in life. They’ve often been shown more aggression than kindness, so it’s no surprise that some of the methods they use with their horses mirror that. But I see these sessions as an opportunity to offer something different. No judgment,

no baggage—just a shared moment of learning and connection.

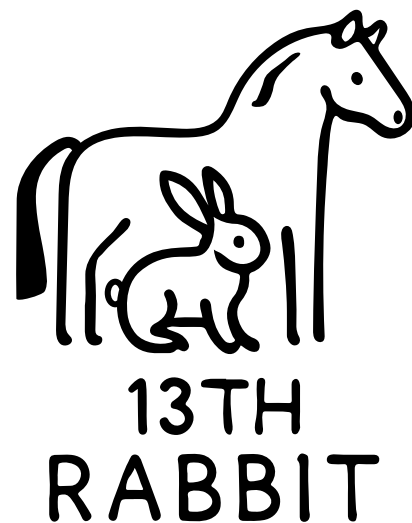
I focus on groundwork first. Softness from the ground becomes softness in the saddle. Teaching them that you get more from a horse when you’re gentle than when you’re harsh—it’s a lesson that often surprises them. But once they see it, once the horse starts responding, they light up. And that’s everything.

Of course, there are complaints at times about how the horses are ridden, and many of them are valid. But I believe if we want to see change, we need to show a different way. We can’t just expect these kids to know better without ever being taught. Education, without alienation—that’s my goal.

Riding can be a joy like no other. The connection between thought and movement, the shared momentum—it’s something profound. And I want them to experience that joy in a way that’s respectful and kind.

My hope is that these small lessons ripple outwards—not just in how they treat horses, but how they relate to others, and to themselves. If even one of them sees a different future through this work, then it’s all been worth it’

If you’d like to learn more about Les’s horsemanship sessions or need help with an equine issue, you can reach him on 066 216 9667.



The Art of Understanding the Night Sky

In the tranquil town of Greyton and valleys beyond, where the hustle of city lights fades into the serene glow of the Milky Way, the night sky offers a canvas of celestial wonders that beckons both seasoned stargazers and novices alike. With its pristine skies, Greyton is not just a haven for nature lovers but also a paradise for those who seek to unravel the mysteries of the cosmos.

Embarking on the journey of understanding the night sky is akin to learning a new language—a language written in the stars, accessible to those who take the time to look up and wonder. Here in Greyton, where the air is clear and the light pollution minimal, that language speaks with clarity and beauty.

Starting Your Stargazing Adventure

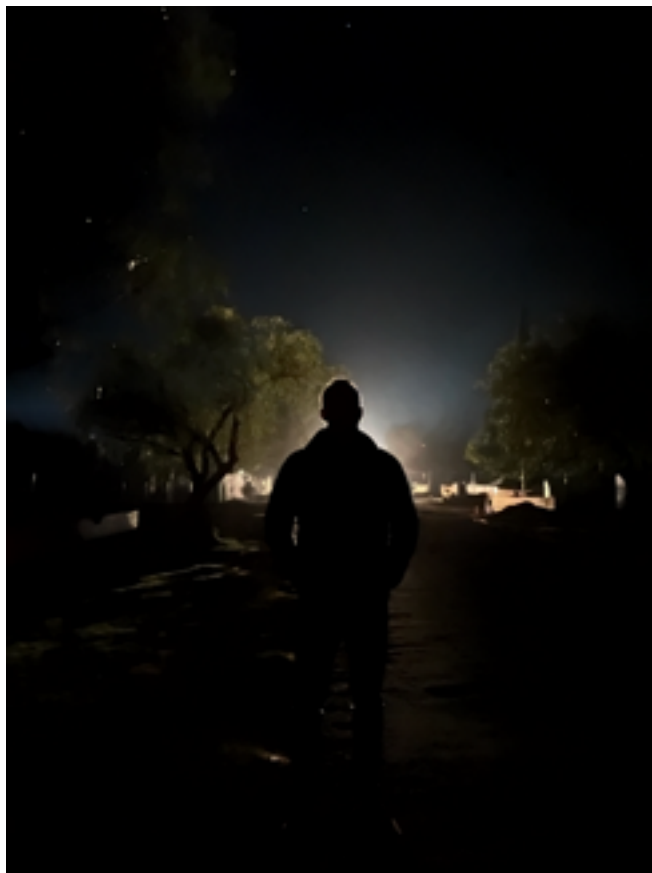
The first step to enjoying the night sky is as simple as stepping outside on a clear evening. Allow your eyes to adjust to the darkness for about 20 minutes—a perfect excuse for a quiet moment of reflection under the starlit sky. You'll soon notice more than just the brightest stars; constellations will begin to form patterns that tell stories of ancient myths and faraway celestial bodies.

A basic stargazing tool that enhances the experience is a pair of binoculars. Even modest ones can reveal the craters of the moon, the moons of Jupiter, and the rings of Saturn. For those who wish to dive deeper, a beginner

telescope opens up a whole new world, bringing distant galaxies and nebulae within view.

What to Look For

The Southern Hemisphere boasts some of the most spectacular celestial sights, and Greyton's location offers front-row



seats to these cosmic displays. One of the first constellations to seek out is the Southern Cross, a crucial navigational beacon for centuries and a staple of the southern night sky.

Throughout the year, the sky shifts and changes, offering seasonal delights. In the summer months, look for the bright band of the Milky Way stretching across the sky. Come winter, the famous Orion Nebula—a nursery for new stars—makes an appearance, a fuzzy spot on the sword of Orion the Hunter that can be seen with the naked eye.

Meteor Showers & Special Events

No stargazing experience in Greyton would be complete without witnessing a meteor shower. These dazzling events occur when the Earth passes through the debris left by a comet. The most active in our region include the Quadrantids in January, the Eta Aquariids in May, and the Geminids in December. During a shower, it's possible to see up to 40 meteors per hour—truly a celestial spectacle!

Whether you're tracing the constellations, spotting planets, or simply making a wish on a shooting star, stargazing in Greyton offers a profound connection to the universe and a peaceful escape from the daily grind. So next time the sky is clear, why not grab a blanket, a warm drink, and a good friend, and head out under the stars? The night sky is a reminder of the vastness of the universe and our unique place within it—a perspective that is both humbling and exhilarating.

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The Post Mortem



Lady Grey's Observations: Talking Trash

Dearest Readers,

As the chill of winter tiptoes into our beloved valley and scarves and log fires become the fashion once more, your ever-watchful Lady Grey has a few trashy matters to share from the hedgerows and streets of Greyton.

Let us begin with a matter most pressing—dog poo. Yes, dear reader, it seems the charming dappled lanes of our village are doubling as canine convenience stops. While we adore our furry companions, we must insist on civilised manners. Biodegradable bags are a must, and our thoughtfully decorated bins are there for just this reason. One must scoop and toss—not simply stroll on.

Now, to the commonage—

our wild and beautiful expanse of fynbos. But pray, what are those fluttering white tissues tangled in the bushes? Are the fairies redecorating, or have some among us taken to the open air in times of, shall we say, urgent need? A gentle word: if caught short, perhaps consider packing a little bag of your own. Let us not turn nature's wonder into a latrine.

A note too for those keenly watching others renovating their charming cottages - do not dump your general rubbish on others' building rubble or in the surrounding veld. Fly-tipping is not only frowned upon (and illegal), it's frightfully rude especially to those civic-minded super heroes who pick up behind the dumpers. And to those who leave behind clues—thank you! It makes sleuthing

delightfully easy.

Let us not forget the splendid sight of our 'community funded' Unimog firetruck—gleaming, mighty, and ready to roll. This marvellous machine, paired with the fearless dedication of our volunteer firemen, is a symbol of the valley's spirit. These brave souls give their time, energy, and courage to keep us safe, often rushing into smoke while we stay safe at home. We salute you all!

And in thrilling developments on the village running scene, our mysterious masked runners have multiplied— from two to three! Chests bared, masks donned, and mystery thick in the air, they streak through the streets like winter's very own vigilantes of fitness. Who is the third Adonis on the streets? As

ever, Lady Grey is on the case.

And what of the recent influx of robust, pink-bearded gents who graced us for the beer festival? A head-banging delight, indeed! Hats off to the organisers for a riotous yet well-mannered affair. With glorious music and wine festivals on the horizon, and the monthly Genadendal night market in full swing, one is reminded that life in our valley is indeed joyful even with the odd 'erk' to keep us on our toes.



Yours (always watching),

Lady Grey
xoxo

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