



Newsletter: May 2023

STANFORD CONSERVATION

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We salute the “FORGOTTEN ONES”

Cemeteries reveal interesting history; and the work done since beginning of this year by SCA’s team “The Forgotten Ones” has bonded many Stanford families with their ‘forgotten’ loved ones again.

The state of the two old cemeteries in Moore Street (previously Grafstraat = Grave Street) has been of concern for many years, especially as they represent such an important part of Stanford’s history. The oldest grave, for example, dates to 1835 and belongs to Hester Parlby, the wife of Samuel Parlby who farmed on the Kleyne Riviers Valley farm from 1831- 1838. There are many more graves dating back to the 1800s and early 1900s – all indicating the transformation from the colonial farming era (Walsh, Moore, Poole) to the Afrikaans-speaking farming community in the 1900s (De Villiers, Swart, Fourie).

One of the most fascinating tombstones found to date, shaped like a tree stump, is that of Jan (Hertzog) de Villiers who died age 22 (1918 – 1940). He was the grandson of Philippus de Bruyn who founded the village of Stanford. He joined the police force and was killed during a roadblock in Woodstock. His was the first (and maybe the last?) military funeral to be held in Stanford. Tree-stump grave markers were part of a movement to turn the focus away from death back to the life of the deceased. For the Victorians, grave markers shaped like tree stumps, or with tree stump imagery as part of the gravestone, was a powerful symbol of both eternity and humanity, recalling the Bible’s tree of life/tree of knowledge cut short, or the brevity of life.



The team meets every Thursday morning (weather permitting) to continue cleaning, pruning, cutting, painting... Should you wish to join them, please contact Debbie Braunlich on 082-455-1601.

Left: Antonia Castanheira (visitor), Marlene Gracie, Debbie Braunlich with Bandit (dog), Robyn Ferguson, Kat Goss and Orbit (dog), Standing: Ron Joubert, Chrissie Curnow and Becky (dog), Liz Clarke. Melissa McAlpine is also a member of the group, but she was the photographer. Rozahn Swanepoel was away.



St Thomas on The Green

Beautiful palms – but real a menace

Many of us tend to forget how tall (and how fast) that little self-seeded palm tree can grow that we one day accidentally discovered in our garden – or even consciously planted!

The three *Washingtonia robusta* palms in the church yard (two of them next to the church and the other next to Stanford's main leiwater channel on the village green) unfortunately must be removed before the rethatching of the church roof can start. Apart from their extremely dense and invasive root system that is damaging the foundations of the church (and the leiwater channel) and lifting the buttresses which stabilise the walls, the hard palm leaves fall onto the roof when the strong south-easter blows, dislodging the thatch and damaging the roof on their way to the ground.



Permits to remove these trees have already been obtained from Heritage Western Cape and work will start beginning May. The other palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) on the border with the Village Green will remain.

ALMOST THERE!

At the time of this newsletter going to press, there is only a R60 000 shortfall for the entire rethatching project.

Dave Morin (Stanford) and Matt and Jenny Chancey (USA) have put out the challenge that they will match any donations made as from Easter to mid-May up to the value of R25 000. Reed Cottage has also put out a R5 000 challenge to other accommodation establishments to donate at least one night's accommodation income to the fund.

Most of the donors have requested to remain anonymous, but the SCA and the St Thomas congregation would like to thank everyone for opening their hearts to save Stanford's two iconic buildings. Donations have been anything from R20 for one bundle of thatch to the one anonymous person who donated the entire R172 000 required for the rethatching the Oulap School. The most amazing of it all is that every cent raised was donated by people, organisations and businesses in Stanford, or those who have strong ties with this wonderful village of ours (ex-residents, scholars etc).

Once renovated, the Oulap School will be available for use by the community for small functions, workshops etc at a small fee. These funds will be used for the ongoing maintenance of the church buildings and yard.



St Thomas on The Green

Who would believe it?

R400 000 raised in 4 months!



Since late January this amazing Stanford community rallied together to raise almost all the funds required to complete Phase One of the *Masterplan for the Restoration of the St Thomas Church Complex*: The rethatching of both the Oulap School and the St Thomas Church (Stanford's only buildings of provincial heritage significance) and the removal of the three tall palm trees that are damaging the church roof and foundations.

Work on the Oulap School started after Easter weekend. Europa Thatchers from Elim are doing an excellent job on laying down the thick layer of thatch, including providing a fire blanket between the thatch. The work is going somewhat slower than anticipated as they found some Boris Beetle in the battens, now all need to be replaced. Despite a small shortfall in funds, the rethatching of the church roof will start as soon as the Oulap roof is completed.

**Thank you
to the**



If there is one Stanford organisation that needs special mention, it is the Butterfly Centre at Stanford Hills Estate. This NPO only relies on donor funding to assist children with special needs.

One of their annual fund-raising events is
"Eat Around the World"

where you pay R150 for a ticket and receive a small plate of food from 10 different country cuisines.

The food is made and donated by Stanford residents and businesses.

This year the Centre decided to donate the full income of the evening (R15 000) to the roof fund. It again shows what a wonderful community we have!

And please – support as many of their events as you can.

Thank you, Peter and Jamie Kastner!



Hats off to our Stanford Municipal staff – and some ‘angels’

Stanford Conservation puts in a lot of time and effort to maintain our green belts, but without the municipality's assistance our efforts would be 50% less effective. The cooperation of Stanford's area manager, Charl Cornelius, and the parks team under the leadership of Cammy Damon, is to be commended and acknowledged by all residents.

For example, the municipality pulled out all the stops for the Cape Epic so that the entire world could see what a beautiful village we live in – even to the extent that they changed the route for rubbish to be removed on that Tuesday morning so that very few bags were to be seen around. They assisted us to clean, cut, remove biomass; all for the greater good.

Almost every week we create a pile of biomass to be removed because of cleaning up the cemeteries, tree-popping invasive trees, cutting back shrubs etc, and it takes only one phone call and everything is removed within a day or two.

Challenges

HOWEVER - Our Stanford municipal office has lately been hamstrung by many issues that seriously affect service delivery. Equipment is broken – all eight weed-eaters have been faulty since the Cape Epic and the tractor that cuts the grass is also broken. Loadshedding and the related costs of generators, fuel etc, has had an adverse effect on the operational budget; so much so that (as at end April) they will have no more funds available to pay their service provider that cuts the

verges, cemeteries etc. The matter has been taken up with our councillor at Ward Committee level, but there is no certainty when these issues will be resolved.

Meanwhile, the SCA does its best to assist in keeping Stanford green and tidy but can only afford one man working once a week. The SCA is presently negotiating with other government poverty employment programmes in Stanford to see how we can all work together.

Angels

As from two weeks ago we are also receiving some unexpected help from a group of youngsters who call themselves 'Angels on Earth' (photograph below). Under the auspices of Amanda Julies, an administrative assistant at Die Bron, they help the elderly, help handing our food to the poor... and assist in small gardening jobs on their choice on the Wandelpad.

The new municipal financial year starts only on 1 July, so we would like to request every resident to please cut your own verge(s) and trim back trees and shrubs that block vehicular views and may bear a safety risk. If you border on or live across from municipal land, please walk the extra mile to cut and keep that area clean as well.

Please assist us and the municipality in keeping Stanford the desirable destination it has become.

Below: 'Angels on Earth' at work





Recycling the Swop Shop way

Twice a month on a Monday, bags full of recyclable materials are brought by the residents of Stanford South to the Swop Shop behind the community hall in Bezuidenhout Street. The bags get carried, carted by wheelbarrow, brought by some neighbour with a bakkie... all to be weighed in return for tokens with which goods can be 'bought' in the Swop Shop.



During the year, the tokens are mainly exchanged for household goods, clothes and toiletries. In January, however, the Swop Shop provides in the stationery needs for learners. Swop Shop volunteers liaise with the local schools at the end of a school year to determine needs for each grade. To purchase these goods (exercise books, school bags, calculators) are usually way beyond the financial means of parents, and hence the queues for the January Swop Shop sessions are extremely long.

Another huge thank you goes to those who donate unwanted clothes and household goods in exchange for tokens. There is a dire need for these goods – especially children and men's clothing and shoes. When you are decluttering, please consider donating items to the Swop Shop. But please – please consider the dignity of the volunteers and the 'buyers'. Please don't dump torn, dirty and worn-out clothes or chipped or broken household items on team.

For the 2022/23 financial year the stationery expenses were R43 000, which will only increase as inflation hits South Africa harder and harder and as the population increases. At present there is only R18 000 in the kitty for this financial year – so watch this space for our next fundraiser! The expenditure on toiletries (approximately R19 000) is funded by the Junktique sales at the Saturday market (and lately via WhatsApp 'Stanford Stuff for Sale'). A sincere thank you to everyone who donates bespoke previously loved and unwanted goods to this fundraiser.

Last, but not least, dog and cat food flies off the shelf when available. Please consider sponsoring a bag at least twice a year. Bags can be bought (and left) at the Overberg Agri or call Linda Strydom on 083-844-3707 if you have a bag to donate.



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AGM 2023

Thursday, 11 May 2023

17:00 for 17:30

Stanford Hotel

Non-members: R200 payable at the door

Snacks will be served

Cash bar available

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A SECRETARY!!!

Liz MacMillian has been our faithful secretary for a number of years and has decided to retire. We are therefore desperately looking for someone who will take over this position.

The person must be computer literate and have a good knowledge of Excel, as the update of the membership list and the electronic distribution of notices is part of the job description (the remainder being minutes of the committee meetings and the AGM).

Please contact John Kelley on

Bank Details

Please use the following bank details should you consider donating funds or become a member (R200/year) of the SCA.

Please provide your surname and what the donation is for (e.g. membership, St Thomas, Swop Shop etc) as reference.

Stanford Conservation

NEDBANK Hermanus, Branch Code 134512

Current account 125 673 272 or

Savings Account No. 238 300 1805

Please contact us directly for the international bank codes if needed.

SCA Contact Details



info@stanfordconservation.org



www.stanfordconservation.org



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