



HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF
SOUTH AFRICA
&
SWELLENDAM HERITAGE
ASSOCIATION

Heritage Symposium **2021**

'Overberg Potjie'

**COME EXPLORE THE HERITAGE, STORIES
AND PEOPLE OF SWELLENDAM**

14 - 16 October, 2021 | Swellendam

Booking Essential

www.heritagesa.org

After the disappointment of having to cancel the annual symposium last year because of COVID-19, The Heritage Association of South Africa is pleased to announce it will be holding its symposium from Thursday 14 to Sunday 17 October 2021 in the beautiful and historic town of Swellendam. HASA will be hosted by The Swellendam Heritage Association which has been in existence for 40 years this year. The theme chosen for the symposium is titled: 'Overberg Potjie'; reflecting the various communities coming together.

Swellendam is situated in the Overberg region of the Western Cape Province and is a typical farming community type town. It is the oldest town in South Africa after Cape Town and Stellenbosch and boasts some beautifully maintained historical buildings and tree-lined streets.

Programme highlights include:

- town walk and visit to the iconic NG Kerk
- Mayville House rose garden designed by Gwen Fagan
- Schoone Oordt, a Georgian house with Victorian cast iron verandah
- unveiling of a blue plaque at the historic Oefeningshuis
- Auld House, once the home of Joseph Barry
- the VOC's (DEIC) cattle outpost Rietvallei
- the old mission village of Zuurbraak
- the ruins of "Sugar Bridge" a nine span bridge constructed in 1852
- Railton and the Bloemfontein huisie
- the Swellendam Showgrounds, home to the oldest, continuously held agricultural show in the country, if not the world
- the beautiful and historic Klipperivier just outside Swellendam described by Hans Fransen as "the finest house in the Overberg"

For more information visit www.heritagesa.org or email Carol Podd at carolannpodd@gmail.com



PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 14th OCTOBER, HASA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
VENUE	Drostdy Court Room in the Drostdy, 18 Swellengrebel Street
10h30	Tea/ coffee/ registration
11h00	Welcome, Alf Hunter, Chair of Swellendam Heritage Association & Jacques Stoltz, Chair of Heritage Association of South Africa
11h15	HASA AGM
13h00	Light finger lunch at Aan de Eike, 13 Swellengrebel Street
14h00	HASA AGM
14h00	A presentation and workshop on “Colour your life ” will be presented for partners/spouses by Margie Walker
16h00	Guided tour of the museum complex by Johan Kriek to include:
	The Drostdy, the Old Goal, the Ambergswerf, Mayville and the Gwen Fagan Rose Garden
18h30	Meet at the OLD GOAL by the OLD MILL, 243 Voortrek Street for drinks and a traditional dinner
	Philip Bromley to introduce the “Family Crest” project
	Wynand Olivier will talk about the ‘Onderdorp’, the end of town where craftspeople had their workshops.
FRIDAY, 15th OCTOBER, SYMPOSIUM	
VENUE	NG Kerk Hall, 5 Voortrek Street
09h00	Tea/ coffee/ registration
	Welcome, by the new Executive Mayor Francois du Rand & HASA Chair, Jacques Stoltz
09h20	Housekeeping, Carol Podd

	Presentations introduced by Jacques Stoltz – time will be allocated for questions
09h25	The invisible Khoekhoen of the Overberg - Prof Andrew Smith
10h15	Overberg furniture - Len Raymond
11h05	Tea/coffee/ book sale
	Presentations - working with Provincial Heritage Authorities
11h15	Urban heritage in Stellenbosch - Lauren Buchanan
12h05	Problems with heritage legislation in rural Karoo Towns - Dr Judy Maguire
12h55	Overview, and way forward - Dr Antonia Malan
13h45	Lunch – Grace & Merci. Kerk plein, 8A Voortrek Street
14h30	Town Walk to the famous eclectic NG Kerk where organ music will be played, 11 Voortrek Street
	On to the cemetery and its stories with hosts Hennie & Annemie Steyn
15h30	Walk to Oefeningshuis - present a blue plaque, 36 Voortrek Street
16h30	Visit to Schoone Oordt, a Georgian house with Victorian cast iron verandah, 1 Swellengrebel Street
	Alison Walker will tell us about the building and provide tea in the garden
18h30	Sherry at The Auld House once the home of Joseph Barry, the leading mercantile trader and founder of “Barry and nephews”, 4 Voortrek Street
	During the latter half of the 20th century, the house was restored by Rupert & Alida Erskine and will be described by Len Raymond
19h00	Delegates and guests will attend a Gala Gold Award Dinner at the NG Kerk Hall, 7 Voortrek Street

SATURDAY, 16TH OCTOBER, VISITING the FARMLANDS

	A bus will be provided with local tour guides and seating will be COVID-19 compliant. Delegates may use their own transport.
08h45	Meet in the Drostdy carpark, 18 Swellengrebel Street
09h00	Depart
09h30	Suurbraak, one of the oldest Mission stations in the country where the Attaqua and free slaves have settled and built homes dating back to the early 1800s (Suurbraak is located just east of Swellendam along the N2 highway and the R324, at the southern end of the Tradouw Pass).
	The Mission buildings in the Braak were restored by the Swellendam Heritage Association, known then as the Swellendam Trust
	Local artist Donovan Julies will talk about the village and the motivation for his work
10h20	Visit Lismore (The Barry farm) at the foot of the Tradouw Pass and still worked by members of the family. Jonathan Barry will tell the story of the farm and provide tea. R324, Suurbraak.
11h00	Next a visit to the VOC's (DEIC) cattle outpost, Rietvallei (aan de Buffeljagsrivier legend) established as far as can be ascertained, circa 1729. It is still a working farm today
	There will be a chance to talk to an aged farm labourer whose family have been engaged on the farm for generations.
12h00	Sugar Bridge (bus stop) is Swellendam's most famous endangered heritage site – constructed by the Higgo Brothers to the Design of Charles Michell in 1852.
	Weather permitting we will cross the Bufflesjags river by the drift between the train bridge and the piers of the original engineer's bridge which have stood idly for nearly 100 years, awaiting a new roadway.
	Many and various plans have been mooted and Etienne Zeeman will up-date you with the latest plan.
12h30	Rotterdam, a farm owned by the landdrost, Anthonie Faure, in the late 1700s, and was farmed very successfully.

	Over years it fell into disrepair and was restored by the Fraser-Jones family including the farmhouse and enlarged werf. Andrew Fraser-Jones will describe his farm.
	A light lunch of farm bread & cheeses will be provided.
13h30	Returning to town the route will go across the railway tracks to visit Railton described by Basil May.
	There will be a stop at the train station once a delightful Art Deco building and we will pass the Bloemfontein huisie, the oldest building in Railton.
15h00	Back in Swellendam, we will reach the Agricultural Show ground, home to the oldest continually held show in the World. 2021 would have been 188 years but for the COVID pandemic – it still deserves recognition and a blue plaque will be presented.
16h00	The tour will finish at Klippe Rivier described by Hans Fransen as “certainly the finest house in the “Overberg”.
	The land has been farmed since 1725 and for many generations by the Steyn family. The current owners Michael & Hanneke Dippenaar will show you their house and give one of their famous teas.
18h30	Closure with an informal spit braai at the Swellendam Bowls Club. 40 Drostdy Street.
	SUNDAY, 17th OCTOBER, SELF-DRIVE OPTIONS FOR THE JOURNEY HOME
	OPTION 1: Stormsvlei
	OPTION 2: Bontebok National Park
	OPTION 3: Bonnievale Wine Route
	OPTION 4: Tradouw Pass to Route 62