

# PRESS RELEASE

June 2013

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It's all change within Greyton Transition Town as some founding members of the Board are now standing down and making way for the Board that is going to take GTT onto the next level.

Without a doubt, GTT would not be here if it hadn't been for the foresight, tenacity, courage and pioneering spirit of Karen Thorne, Anel Mostert and Liezel Nicholas. It was this group of three dynamic ladies who first introduced the transition town movement to Greyton exactly two years ago.

In their place we welcome six people who have become increasingly active in transition projects and activities during this year – Sunnye Collins, Careen Bernstein, Wray Whyte, Marshall Rinqest, Bradley Taylor and Nadia Groenewald. Sunnye hails from Texas and, when we heard she was an environmental educator and permaculturalist, she had barely unpacked the furniture at her new home in Greyton when we were knocking at her door and begging her to join us. Careen has been a long term supporter of GTT and has proven herself to be passionate about young people and the arts. Wray has been such a boost to our shop and our spirits so we are delighted she is bringing her energy and commitment to the Board.

Marshall is well known as a musician, community volunteer, environmental educator, field guide and spekboom plant activist! Bradley and Nadia are respectively the Chair and Vice Chair of Greyton Cares, a community group which runs parallel to Greyton Transition Town in the Heuvelkroon community. They are able to represent the needs, opinions and ideas of their community as well as the immense potential that is waiting to be unleashed. At recent meetings many members of the community volunteered to step forward to help tackle some of their most pressing problems, including housing, food security and facilities for young people. GTT will work alongside Greyton Cares to show that we don't have to sit and wait for governments to act – we can do it ourselves.

## **SEVERAL PROJECTS ARE ON A STEADY PATH TO IMPLEMENTATION INCLUDING**

### **POWER**

A pilot installation is being prepared for Emil Weder School. Local and regional experts are assessing the feasibility and costs of installing solar panels on the roof of the school. The savings will allow budgets to be redirected to much needed resources for pupils.

### **YOUTH**

As a result of the Indaba, many contacts were made and this process continues with different groups now more aware of each other and able to work together. It was agreed that a twice yearly indaba should be held to stay in touch. In addition the following programmes were activated and are currently being prepared:

- A directory of youth services for the area.
- Arts and Sports resources upgrade
- Youth Centre construction

## EDUCATION

Communiversiteit who run an excellent gap year programme to help bridge the gap between leaving school and starting a job or tertiary education, have agreed to open their second campus here. This outstanding resource will give up to 40 school leavers per year an extra step up. The six month course offers intensive literacy, maths and computer skills training, with environmental awareness education underpinning the entire course.

GTT is supporting the Greyton Conservation Society and ARK environmental awareness programme in schools. Sunnye and Marshall sit on the boards of GTT and GCS and are going to continue the good work pioneered by Sue Ingram and Carol Viljoen by developing an on-going programme aimed at supporting both teachers and pupils.

## HOUSING & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

GTT, together with Greyton House School, TWK and the Dept of Housing, is supporting the work of Greyton Cares to find solutions to the very pressing housing needs of many people in Heuvelkroon.

Together with people who have been on the housing list for many years, including Peter Plaatjies, who won the Eco Brick Bottle stuffing competition at the Trash to Treasure Festival for the second year running, GTT and Greyton Cares representatives visited the Sustainability Institute near Stellenbosch. A whole day was spent there, firstly with a welcome from the founder, Eve Annecke, then a tour round the institute where the team were particularly impressed with the model RDP house attached to solar power, the eco-homes, communal vegetable gardens and biomass digester/grey water systems.

The Institute has agreed to support a new group comprising ARK, Greyton House School, GTT, Greyton Cares and Greyton Conservation Society in the development of the new High School, model low-income housing and community centre that is being planned.

## WASTE & RECYCLING

GTT is working closely with Cape Nature, Working for Water, TWK and the Industrial Development Corporation to bring our ambitious plans for the dumpsite to fruition. These include:

- Building up the chipping and composting operation. Introducing biochar and charcoal briquettes.
- Establishing a fruit forest. This is awaiting final funding and then we will be able to launch our Air Miles Forest campaign to ask for a contribution of one young fruit tree per airline flight taken by a Greyton resident.
- Creating a mushroom farm. This will generate mushrooms that will allow us to clean out the toxicity from the dumpsite via a process known as mycoremediation. A separate farm will grow mushrooms for consumption.
- Alien vegetation furniture.

We will shortly be fencing in the site for all these developments, after which we can start to implement them.

## COMMUNICATIONS

A film crew from Deutsche Welle made a very good 8 min film which has been viewed by over 750 people and can be seen on [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0MhQ-MXi\\_g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0MhQ-MXi_g) It was described by Rob Hopkins, founder of the Transition Town movement as probably his favourite Transition film ever!

Amy Rushton who works for Mike Ash, Greyton swallow and our main sponsor, is becoming our biggest out of Africa fan and is tweeting, posting, youtubing and pinteresting us – and it's bearing fruit as we have had much exposure from the media, not only from Deutsche Welle, but Skyways Magazine (South African Airways), Cape Times, Die Burger, The Argus and Cape Talk.

## THE SHOP

Our new presence in Greyton, Pure Greyton, at the Greyt Oak Centre has been open a month and has already generated around R4000 in sales for GTT, mainly from outright donations of goods such as clothing, books and photographs printed on wood, canvas or metal, the latter having been very kindly donated by Candice Mostert and MyCamera.

Bradley Taylor's vegetarian Pure Café is building up its clientele and his two signature dishes, home made pasta and vegetable curry, are drawing much praise. People appreciate being able to buy organic vegetables from Alex Camilleri throughout the week. GTT volunteer, Wray Whyte, has been particularly supportive, donating an Oscar Juicer and providing our first product lines such as eco-friendly washing products and furniture made from alien vegetation.

The shop is open from Tuesday to Saturday but may soon extend to a full week. We are also steadily building up our stock of environmentally products so do keep popping in – you will always find something different.

## THE FUTURE

We now have five working groups headed by a key volunteer:

<b>Power</b>	Brian Dawes
<b>Youth/Education</b>	Sunnye Collins
<b>Incredible Edible</b>	Marshall Rinquest
<b>Housing</b>	Bradley Taylor
<b>Trash to Treasure</b>	Rohan Millson

If you would like to join a working group please contact us on [info@greytontransition.co.za](mailto:info@greytontransition.co.za) or 082 558 7752.

We are also searching for a Chairman. Have you got what it takes to lead Greyton Transition Town into the future and help us roll out all the above projects and more? Nicky Vernon is already taking a full time, unpaid Director role and would dearly like to hand over the Chairman position – both to free up her time and also to provide more accountability and transparency within the structure of GTT. If you are interested or if you can suggest a likely candidate please apply to the Board via Nicky on the above number or at [nicolavernon@kingsley.co.za](mailto:nicolavernon@kingsley.co.za).

## CONTACTS

**GTT office:** 3 Greyt Oak Centre, Main Road, Greyton 7233

**Nicola Vernon: Chairman of the board.**

Tel: +27 (0)82 558 7752

Email: [info@greytontransition.co.za](mailto:info@greytontransition.co.za) or [nicolavernon@kingsley.co.za](mailto:nicolavernon@kingsley.co.za)

## NOTES TO THE EDITOR

GTT is a rapidly expanding charity, with BIG plans and ideas. This press release contains our key events and activities, but for a real flavour of the passion and impact of this grass roots organisation do call to speak with Nicola. Find out why the professional German Film company Deutsche Welle dedicated 4 days of its Global Ideas Crew to film the community, the transition festival and other events.

### ABOUT GREYTON TRANSITION TOWN

[www.greytontransition.co.za](http://www.greytontransition.co.za)

Founded in 2012 by UK ex pat Nicola Vernon and her team of volunteers GTT is representative of the **3000** Transition Town projects that have sprung up globally as people found resonance with the model developed in the UK. Every Transition movement has unique aspects and components, but all are driven to improve people's lives through sustainable activities. As an active charity, it works with a wide group of interests, ranging from local municipalities, farmers & residents, to businesses, charities, non-governmental organisations, scientists, doctors, lawyers and other activists.

### DW: GLOBAL 3000 FILM ABOUT GREYTON TRANSITION TOWN

[http://youtu.be/IOMhQ-MXi\\_g](http://youtu.be/IOMhQ-MXi_g)