



DOING STUFF

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Kids love doing stuff.....

.....and yet, so many of our children don't do stuff unless it's watching TV or playing with their cellphones.

GTT offers our children an alternative – climbing mountains, growing vegetables, planting trees – even tidying up waste when there's a chance of a horse ride as a reward!

At our recent AGM it took over 40 slides and half an hour to run through just a summary of all the activities we enjoyed with our local children during 2014. The highlight for all of us, adults and children, was a trip to the Cape Leopard Trust where the children had an opportunity not just to run wild and free but also to observe leopards, set up cameras and learn all about these elusive and endangered creatures that populate our own mountains.



On our latest camp, the second of what we hope will be an annual event, word had got around and the children knew that they were going to eat healthy food – not a packet of crisps or soda drink in the pantry. Marshall Rinquest and his wife Ruwayda showed the children how to cook delicious meals



over an open fire.

During 2015 we will be taking eco-crew children on many more adventures.

Humane Education coming to Greyton

Towards the end of last year GTT hosted a visit from Andrew Rowan, CEO of Humane Society International, based in New York. GTT Board Member, Alexander Jellen, Deputy Principal

of LR Schmidt Primary School in Genadendal, hosted the visit and introduced Mr Rowan to the two teachers who had attended a Humane Education workshop. Mr Rowan was so

impressed with his visit that on his return he confirmed a donation of US\$10,000 (R117,000) to enable GTT to roll out humane education in all schools in Greyton and Genadendal.

“Wonderful rest. Thanks for sharing your lovely space, charming and homely.”

“Warm, welcoming, laid back, spacious, deeply peaceful and a profound sense of being safe, protected almost by the building. Would definitely recommend to anyone seeking time out.”

“I love this place. Comfortable, friendly and full of action. Birds, horses, donkeys, musicians.”

“We intended to stay for a night and ended up staying for three.... Thanks Janet for a wonderful stay.”

“Wonderful staying here! Heart-warming. Clean, beautiful atmosphere! Will definitely come back for more great memories.”

“Gracious hospitality, warm and welcoming. Lovely hiking trails. Neat and tidy rooms to rest your head. Will be back soon.”

GREYTON ECOLODGE

After just six months of being open, Greyton EcoLodge is earning praise for the warmth of its welcome and the hospitality it provides to visitors.

Credit goes to Janet Richards who, from the minute she returned to Greyton to reprise her former role in managing this building, has succeeded in creating a very special space which



offers a sanctuary to various groups including mountain bikers, hikers, schools, churches, eco-tourists, families and individuals. Many come to stay one night and end up changing their plans in order to spend more time here.

ECOLODGE – A NEW MUSIC VENUE

Janet has been part of the South African music scene for many years and has great contacts with many musicians. As a result the EcoLodge is hosting an outstanding programme of music events attracting such names as Steve Newman, Tony Cox, Errol Dyers, Steve Fakaar, David Knowles, Guy Buttery, the Hinds Brothers, Jimmy Anderson, Zee Adams

and Chris Tokalon, the UCT Choir as well as our local talent Splynta and Jane Gaisford. And we've only just got started – much more is coming up in the future.



COMING UP AT THE ECOLODGE

Wednesday 4th March

The full line up of local UK/SA band Splynta whose folk/rock/blues sound is created with a harmony of guitar, mandolin, ukulele, flute, Irish whistle, bodhran, djembe, tabla and voices. Tickets R50, meal R50.

Wednesday 18th March

David Muller in *Oom Schalk, from the Heart*. Muller inhabits the Schalk Lourens character in telling such favourite Herman Charles Bosman's stories as In the Withaak's Shade, Schalk's close encounter with a

leopard and A Bekkersdal Marathon, about a zealous dominee and his trance in the pulpit. In English. Tickets R100, meal R50.

Further details and bookings from Janet on 072 626 7052

NEW FACES AT GTT

Over the three years of GTT's existence we've been fortunate to attract students, interns and visitors from all over the world. Indeed, GTT was set up with the help of Joe Stodgel from Santa Fe in the USA, Charles Dick-Hutchinson from the UK and Megan de Beyer from Cape Town. The programmes they initiated, Eco Crew and Trash to Treasure, have grown and

dozens of adults and children now participate in them.

We've also benefited from two sets of two students from Han University (Mieke and Floortje featured right).

A new influx of volunteer support is arriving. First up is George Clipp from the UK who has settled in well, helping Marshall with all his projects. In March

we greet Willemijn de Groot and Jan Hank Tigelaar from the Netherlands and James Dornan from the UK.

We also welcome Riaan Karolus who joins us as a permanent staff member. Funding for our humane education programme and our swop shops has made it possible to recruit Riaan as a much needed assistant to our Director Marshall Rinquest.



PURE CAFE

Another new face is Walter Bakker who recently visited Greyton from Somerset West and found it impossible to leave, especially when he was offered the tenancy of Pure Café at the Greyt Oak Centre on 41 Main Road.

When he volunteered the information that he opened Jo'burg's first vegetarian restaurant his fate was sealed and since

then he has brought a new fresh look to Pure and is wowing customers with his delicious home made meals using whatever local ingredients are available.

Pure is open Tuesday to Saturday from 8 am to 4 pm, on Sundays for brunch from 9 – 12 and on occasional Fridays for his Chef's Table. Pure will also be stocking spices (in collaboration with Gillian

Kingston), fresh vegetables and organic produce. Call Walter on 083 457 7823



"There is a new cuisine sheriff in Greyton and his name is Bakker! Walter Bakker! Delicious curry soup, decadent chocolate cake. Impeccable service, fantastic vibes and great value for money!"

CLAUDIA MUNRO IS SPARKLING!

Welcome to Claudia Munro who has taken over the Pure Home shop at Greyt Oak Centre. Claudia will continue to stock the popular range of environmentally friendly household cleaning products, wonderbags and solar lamps as well as

staying within the ethos of transition by providing recycled clothing and other second hand goods. We wish Claudia every success in her new venture. Open Mon – Sat from 10 am. Contact Claudia for further info. 084 917 4561

SPARKLE



"It's so good to be able to buy cleaning products in Greyton which are friendly to humans (my hands really suffer with the usual products) and also friendly to the environment – particularly with all our conservation and septic tanks."

Greyton Transition Town
@ Greyton EcoLodge
2 Park Street
Greyton 7233

Nicky 082 558 7752
nicolavernon@kingsley.co.za
Marshall 073 486 1965
marshallrinquest@gmail.com

Registered NPO in South Africa
103-944-NPO



We're on the Web!
www.greytontransition.co.za

Greyton Transition Town was constituted as an NPO in June 2012 with the following mission and objectives:

MISSION: To bring the community together to find local solutions to the global challenges of peak oil and global warming.

OBJECTIVES: To create a sustainable, equitable, integrated community that is resilient and self-sufficient. To support other communities wishing to achieve the same.

GTT has programmes in the areas of:

- Waste management
- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Housing
- Integrated Community
- Children and Youth
- Shop Local
- Food Security
- Training and Employment, Business Mentorship
- Environmental Awareness

DOING STUFF

It can be daunting to look at the mounting evidence that is revealing the impact we humans are having on our Mother Earth. It's easy to feel helpless. However it all starts right here, right now. What are we doing, as individuals, families, groups, to mitigate climate change? Seven years ago Rob Hopkins started the Transition Movement and suggested we just start doing stuff. Now there are at least 3000 transition communities around the world and several million people are doing stuff.

What can we do? The smallest things, when done by many people, can make a dramatic impact on the speed of climate change. For example:

- Turn the tap off while brushing teeth.
- Shower rather than bath.
- Fill the kettle/pot with only as much water as needed.
- Use a wonderbag or hot box to place your food in as soon as it's boiling.
- Reduce the amount of

packaging at point of purchase.

- Recycle plastics, paper, tins and bottles.
- Buy a longlife bag and help Greyton become the first plastic bag free town in South Africa (more about that in next month's issue).
- Support the local vegetable tables at Via's on Wednesday mornings and at the Saturday morning market – all profits and surplus vegetables help feed our eco-crews.