

Die Tuishuise & VICTORIA MANOR



Guest Services

www.tuishuise.co.za



DIE TUISHUISE & VICTORIA MANOR

★★★★

- Single Rooms
- Luxurious Rooms
- Family Rooms
- Karoo Homes
- Swimming Pool
- Spa
- Conference facilities
- Secure Parking

CONTACT US

Tel (+27) 48 881 1650

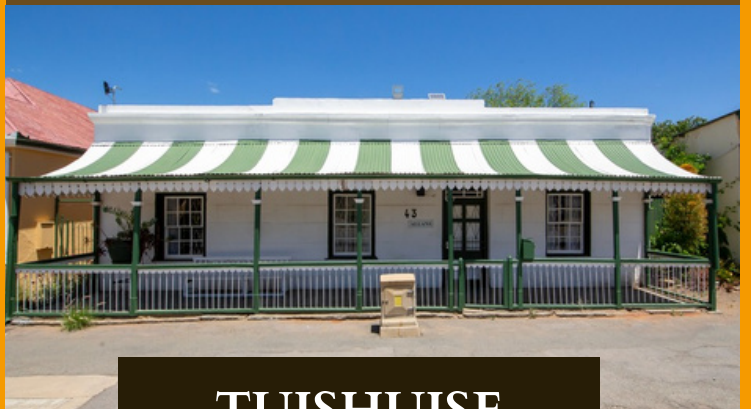
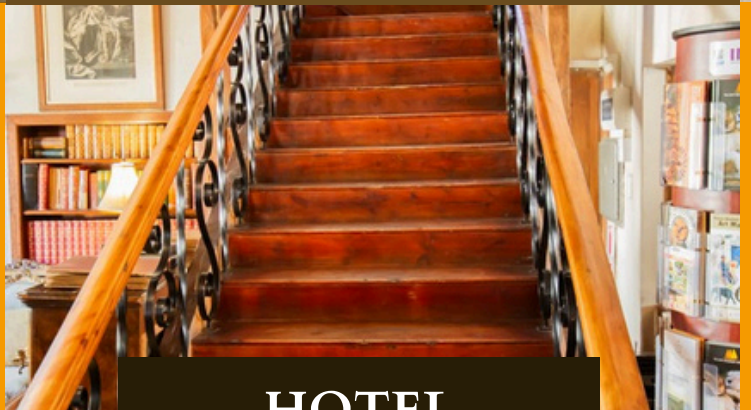
www.tuishuse.co.za

WhatsApp 083 436 8975

reservations@tuishuse.co.za



HOTEL



TUISHUISE

Die Tuishuse & Victoria Manor,
Market Street, Cradock, Karoo



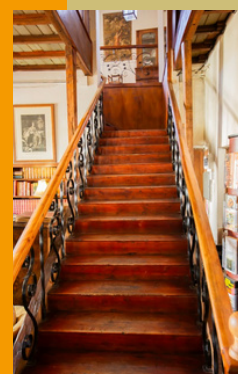
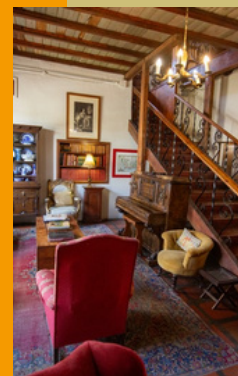
DIE TUSHUISE & VICTORIA MANOR

Welcome to 1848 Market Street, Cradock, Karoo, now known as Die Tuishuise (award winning guest houses) & Victoria Manor (one of South Africa's oldest hotels).

Clanking wagons roll through the river town of Cradock on their way to the hinterland. Hear the clatter of blacksmiths, the crack of the drovers' whips, the chatter of last-minute traders as adventurers and their families prepare for their long trek across the Karoo. More than two dozen Tuishuise line Market Street up to the Victoria Manor, a grand old colonial hotel that welcomes you with hearty country fare, an indulgence of superb traditional Karoo and South African food – evening meals are by candlelight, that reflect the love for the Karoo.

Cradock is a place of literary legends, war heroes and anti-Apartheid struggle icons. But it is perhaps best known for street level, day-to-day, warmth and kindness – so typical of much of the Eastern Cape.

For nature lovers, Die Tuishuise and Victoria Manor is a great base from which to explore the unique landscapes, animals and plants of the nearby Mountain Zebra National Park. Enjoy long walks or a game drive in the Karoo! The fresh Karoo air and quiet spaces are food for the soul. You may never want to return to the city! Child and pet-friendly accommodation.



Guest Services



Nothing is too much trouble for the team at Tuishuise & Victoria Manor.

Our hours of operation through to how to greet in Xhosa and Afrikaans, from meals and menu's to how we can assist with parking or a hair dryer.

CONTACT US

Tel (+27) 48 881 1650

www.tuishuise.co.za

WhatsApp 083 436 8975

reservations@tuishuise.co.za



DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

Reception Desk

Reception hours are 07.00 to 22.00, Phone: +27 (0) 48 881 1650 or WhatsApp 083 436 8975. After hours, please call Security +27 (0) 73 972 2414.

Activities: There are a wide variety of activities in Cradock, highlighted in this document. Please enquire at reception should you want more information.

Air-conditioning & Heating: A selection of the houses and rooms have air-conditioning (available on request, on a first come first served basis). All houses and rooms have ceiling fans, heaters, and electric blankets. Please keep closed all doors and windows while you are using the air conditioning. Please switch off all electrical appliances when leaving your room / checking out.

Check-out time: Please vacate your house / room no later than 10am.

Church Services: note this is only a small selection of the Churches in Cradock

- Anglican 9.00am Sundays Bree Street
- Catholic 9.30am Sundays JA Calata Street
- Methodist 9.00am Sundays Bree Street
- Nederlandse Gereformeerde (NGK) 9.30am Sundays JA Calata Street

Coffee and Tea Facilities: In Die Tuishuise & Victoria Manor you will find a starter pack of coffee, tea, milk, sugar, and a kettle in your house / room.



Conserving the environment: If you are staying over, we will only wash the towels you want replaced. Help us by putting the towels you want washed into an empty bath or leave them on the floor! Please switch off all electrical appliances when leaving your room / checking out.

DSTV: A selection of the houses and all hotel rooms have the hospitality package DSTV (limited channels). This service is available on request if allocated rooms/houses are available. Please call reception if you need help. The Bar offers most channels.

Electric Blankets: All beds have electric blankets, if you find your bed does not have one, please inform Reception.



Emergency

- Police & Fire 048 881 7110
- Hospital 048 881 2123
- Private Ambulance 086 106 1061
- State Ambulance 045 807 5900
- Doctor Mdolomba 048 881 0306
- Dentist Dr Lyell 082 899 0679 / 048 881 4781
- Doctor Neethling 048 881 1670
- Vet Cape Cross 048 881 0197
- Doctor Schoeman 083 263 1916
- Vet Dr Muller 087 813 6577
- Doctor H Slabbert 048 881 0068
- Pharmacy Watersons 048 881 2809
- Doctor Tyumre 087 283 0692
- Pharmacy Osche 048 881 2253
- Doctor Malan 087 550 1849 / 081 350 8166
- Dentist Dr Erasmus 048 881 2401/ 082 820 6865

Fire safety: Please see information behind your door for more information.



Hairdryers and Irons: are available in your rooms, if you don't have one, please get one from Reception or in the Hotel please use the communal iron outside Room 1. We require a R100 deposit, which is billed to your room and credited on return of the item.

Internet/ WIFI: There is free Wi-Fi in Victoria Manor and strongest in the rooms of the houses facing the street in Die Tuishuise. If you don't receive the wi-fi password on check-in, please ask reception or WhatsApp 083 436 8975(DH).

Keys: To assist the cleaning staff please hand your key to Reception when leaving your house or room every day. Please return your key on departure, else we will bill you for the cost of replacement of the keys.

Laundry: Please find a laundry bag and laundry slip in your wardrobe. Complete the slip and bring to reception. Laundry is a next day service, unless otherwise requested.

Meals: Dinner is served daily from 18h30 – 21h00.
Breakfast from 07h00 – 10h00.

Please enjoy a complimentary pre dinner sherry in the Victoria Manor lounge. The regular meal format for dinner is a choice of a served starter and dessert and a traditional Karoo buffet as the main course, an a la carte menu service is available on request. Please inform us of any allergies on check in. Note - We don't serve lunch on Saturdays and Sundays and will refer you to other local restaurants.

Maintenance: Please inform Reception of any maintenance issues.

Noise: For the consideration of other guests please keep noise, including TV sound, to a minimum, particularly after 22h00.

Parking: Guests are encouraged to park in the parking area at the back of the Victoria Manor, unless your house has its own parking. Parking is at your own risk.

Pets: Well behaved pets are welcome. Please sign our Pet policy pre-or on arrival.

Pool: Use of pool is at your own risk! Access to the pool is via the southeast corner of the Victoria Manor parking lot. Please DO NOT REMOVE the white bathroom towels from your rooms. Pool towels are available at reception, a refundable R100 deposit will be charged to your room.

Porter Services: Please enquire at Reception for assistance/ WhatsApp 083 436 8975.



Conferences, Weddings & Events



Die Tuishuise & Victoria Manor is a magical wedding venue. Experience everything that is beautiful, unique, traditional and special about the Karoo. We can carefully curate your special event. Let us take care of you and your guests' accommodation, entertainment and gastronomic needs. Enjoy the attention to detail and personalised service of bygone days. Relax and let us make your special day a memorable occasion.

We can offer you flexibility and understanding of new wedding plans. We can arrange small and intimate weddings, depending on your needs. When the time is right to celebrate your big day, we are here to help with great food, beautiful décor and wonderful service.

Venue Hire Includes:

Use of venue

Bar service

All standard equipment

Chairs and tables

White table clothes and napkins

Cutlery and crockery

What the Venue Hire excludes, but we can help you source

Additional décor and chair covers

Flowers and floral arrangements (centre pieces for tables)

Photographer and/or Videographer

Music and entertainment

Baby sitting

Visit our gallery on our website

www.tuishuise.co.za/weddings



Safety & Security: Market Street is a public street, so please keep your street facing doors and windows closed. Please do not let anyone wash your car, except for our designated staff, who wear khaki uniforms. Security guards patrol the street at night for your peace of mind. Security +27 (0) 73 972 2414.

Fire Safety: Familiarise yourself with the instructions behind the front door of your house / bedroom.

Safety deposit: If you wish to, you are welcome to hand your valuables in at reception for safekeeping. Management cannot be held responsible for loss of valuables.

Smoking: We have a NO SMOKING policy, you may smoke outside.

Social Upliftment: Please do not give beggars any money or food in Market Street, it discourages them from finding formal employment and encourages them to disturb you, our guest. We instead encourage you to donate money to Vukusebenza, an empowerment project and feeding scheme.

Service Charge: We have a tip box at reception.

Visitors: Guests are requested to entertain their visitors in our public reception areas, not in their rooms or houses. Visiting hours: from 9am up to 9pm at night.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION:

When you go to the Mountain Zebra National Park, the sign says Bergkwagga Park – kwagga is the Afrikaans word for a zebra. In the park, you'll usually find most of the animals on the Rooiplaat circular drive.

Don't miss the off-ramp into Port Elizabeth / the Airport– it says 'Settlers Way', not 'city/stad'.

A road sign that says 'slaggate' is warning you of potholes ahead, so please drive cautiously. The sign "slegs only" indicates an off-ramp that is for that lane of traffic only. ('slegs' is the Afrikaans word for 'only').

You can enter Addo from Paterson in the North and exit the Park at Colchester in the South.

Loadshedding: a term used by ESKOM (South African Electricity) is a way to distribute demand for electrical power across multiple power sources.







On the Afrkaans or
Xhosa word to hear
the pronunciation

English	Afrikaans	Xhosa
Chemist	Apteeek	Ikhemesti
Doctor	Dokter	Ugqirha
I want to go to....	Ek wil na die toe gaan	Ndifuna ukuhamba phaya
Left	Links	Ekhohlo
Right	Regs	Ekunene
Yes	Ja	Ewe
No	Nee	Hayi
Bank	Bank	Ibanki
Police	Polisie	Amapolisa
Help	Kan u my help	Khawundincedisa / Khawunceda
Food	Kos	Ukudla
Pub	Kroeg	Ibari

English	Afrikaans	Xhosa
Good morning Goeie more Molo	Goeie More	Molo
Good Afternoon	Goeie Middag	Ivawkwemini
Good Evening	Goeie Naand	Kronantini
Thank you	Dankie	Enkos
No, thank you	Nee dankie	Hayibo
Leave me alone	Los my uit	Yeka mna / Ndiyeke
How are you?	Hoe gaan dit?	Kujani?
Fine, thank you	Goed dankie	Kulungile / Ndiphilile, enkosi
What does it cost?	Hoeveel kos dit?	Yimaline?
Where is the toilet	Waar is die toilet	Iphi indlu yangasese
Only	Slegs	Qha
Where is the Zebra Park?	Waar is die Zebra Park?	Iphi iZebra Park
Nice	Lekker	Mnandi
Shop	Winkel	Ivenkile

A HOUSE FULL OF HISTORY



In 1983 five historic cottages on Market Street in Cradock, Eastern Cape were about to be demolished. A local farmer's wife, Sandra Antrobus, knew she just had to make a plan. To date she has rescued more than 30 in the same street – the cottages that comprise a unique hospitality project: Die Tuishuise, the guest house business, started in 1989 with Victoria Manor Hotel being incorporated into the business in 1994. Originally Die Tuishuise were home to wagon makers, blacksmiths and other artisans in the early 1840s and actually used as Tuishuise (townhouses) for farmers when they came to Cradock for their Communion (nagmaalhuisies). From the 1920s, however, the homes started to fall into disrepair - by then the train and the car had taken over from the wagon, robbing many of the Market Street residents of their livelihood. The fact that there has been little modernisation since those times allowed Sandra Antrobus to purchase these properties in their original state thus allowing accurate and faithful period restoration.

Today each one of the houses is furnished and decorated with old #Karoo farmhouse artefacts providing guests with an authentic South African experience. The houses were built in English and Dutch styles and each one has its own character and style “to depict the different South African lifestyles in the pioneering days,” says Sandra. The names of the cottages tell their own stories. None more so than LION HOUSE which is named for Töger von Abo Flemmer, a Dane who lived in Market Street in the 1840s. He captured wild animals (including lions) which he sold to the zoos in Europe. The lions were held in cages on Market Square before being transported to the Port Elizabeth harbour. He persuaded his cousin Hans Naested to move to Africa (hence Naested Street). Hans made a name for himself by collecting African artefacts and weapons and sending them to the museum in Copenhagen.

Die Tuishuise and Victoria Manor are indeed a unique part of the Eastern Cape's Frontier Land and well worth a visit

Dr Dean Allen - Author Speaker Historian
www.deanallen.co.za

Victoria Manor





reviews



Featuring spacious and stylish rooms and suites, The Victoria Manor Hotel is steeped in character and elegance. Guests love sipping a pre-dinner sherry in the lounge before eating dinner in our elegant restaurant. Our famous, delicious farm-style breakfasts are served in the breakfast room.

Our accommodation is child friendly!

Thanks, your whole set up there is unique to this country. There is nothing like it - it is very good. Your staff are friendly and decent and the laid back but super efficient atmosphere is to our liking. We also feel very safe there which obviously is important.

We look forward to post Covid so we can once again enjoy meals there. Your food is good."

"What a gem! We had never been to Cradock before and were pleasantly surprised by this beautiful manor on our stopover! The staff were friendly and eager to help out and the food was great and plentiful! The plunge pool was a great escape for the kids and would definitely stay here again!"

"Die Tuishuise and Victoria Manor blew us away. Amazingly preserved and presented, filled with charm and history, with the most friendly and courteous and efficient staff. The restaurant decor is outstandingly true to the theme and the rich history of the hotel and the food was superb, a top rate home-cooked meal away from home."

“The restoration of Victoria Manor is an ongoing labour of love. Many famous people have stayed here and passed through its doors, including Olive Schreiner, General Haig, William Faulds (VC), Juliette Binoche, Harry Potter, Eddie Izzard, Guy Butler and Etienne van Heerden.

“There are precious few country hotels left in South Africa that still adhere to old quality standards. The Victoria Hotel in Cradock is, thankfully, one of them. Walk into the foyer of this establishment and you suddenly find yourself in the gracious days of the mid-1800s.”

Chris Marais and Julienne du Toit Karoo Keepsakes, Cradock 2009



BOOK NOW



King /Twin Room with en-suite bathroom gives you the feel of being in the luxurious 1920's with a claw bath and a beautifully decorated room to suit the hotel and its period style. A Honeymoon couldn't be better than relaxing and enjoying the hotel and surroundings especially with the candlelight dinner awaiting you downstairs...





Double Room

BOOK NOW



All sixteen Victoria Manor bedrooms are en-suite and are individually decorated, have a Hotel DSTV package, select rooms have air conditioner – please request if you would prefer air con.

Sip a pre-dinner sherry in the lounge before eating dinner in our elegant dining room or visit our quirky pub. Wake up to a farm style breakfast served in the breakfast room.



Family Room

Bring the family as we have more than enough activities, space and things to do for those that have little ones or those that would like to bring their retired parents to enjoy Cradock and its surrounds.

BOOK NOW



Die Tuishuise Guest Houses

Guests love the space, history and tranquillity that the houses (Tuishuise) offer! What a wonderful experience to enjoy a whole house for you and your family and your pets!

Reception, check-in and out as well as hearty Karoo meals enjoyed at Victoria Manor.

Our accommodation is child and pet-friendly!

There is a lovely little street with houses where artisans lived. It was called Market Street and ox wagons drove up and down en-route to the gold and diamond fields. Pavements were built to protect the ladies from getting their long skirts splattered by the oxen dung. It was a time when lions were captured on the farms nearby and sent by sailing ships to zoos in Europe. Kwaggas still existed and the local doctor made house-calls, occasionally on a Kwagga.

Over the years cars and the railway replaced ox wagons and the skills of the owners of the houses were no longer needed, so money became tight and some of the houses fell into disrepair. Nearly 100 years later, in 1983, a lady by the name Sandra Antrobus, decided to rescue them from being destroyed. Sandra could not bear the thought of them being bulldozed and broken down for new builds, so she set about restoring them. This is the beginning of the street of stories, the rescuing of more than 30 in the same street – the cottages that comprise a unique hospitality project: Die Tuishuise.

‘Today Market Street consists of more than two dozen individually decorated houses, paying tribute to people who lived in the street as well as leading literary figures and heroes from Cradock. It is a much loved hotel visited by travellers far and wide who love warm hospitality and a good story with a happy ending!

The collection of antiques and bric-a-brac at Die Tuishuise & Victoria Manor is a passion project, an ongoing, evolving life time collection. Perhaps one of the largest collections in South Africa?

Even though when we bought the hotel and houses didn't have any furniture, the bones of the existing buildings guided our restoration projects. We love to share our life-long collection and passion for antiques. Every nook and corner is filled with carefully curated pieces and pictures.

On Oukop just outside Cradock you will find the inscription: “What avail it a man if he gainth the world, but looseth his soul.” This is typical of Cradock, bask in the warm welcome and kindness. Enjoy our hospitality and experience the love that has been put into Die Tuishuise & Victoria Manor in historic Market Street.

Market Street is the lifelong project of owner and founder Sandra Antrobus. It is a beautifully preserved slice of history of South Africa dating back to the 1840s. In 1983, Sanda bought her first five houses (to restore) in Market Street and in 1989 Die Tuishuise, the guest house business was born. In 1994, the hotel, Victoria Manor was for sale and incorporated, into the business. Three of Sandra’s family members also work in the business.

Die Tuishuise were home to Wagon Makers in early 1840s and used for as Tuishuise (townhouses/ translated house homes) for farmers when they came to Cradock for their Communion. The Victoria Manor was built in 1848 and advertised and used as a hotel from the early 1850s.

We are passionate about the hospitality industry and what we do, our staff, the environment, Cradock and our community, tourism, our heritage, and the little touches that make you feel at home. We are always looking at ways to improve what we do and how we do it. If you have experience and advice in whatever field; environmental, saving money, staff training, whatever it might be, we would love to hear your suggestions and input as it helps us add the details that make for a truly memorable experience.

By staying with us, you are making a big difference to our community, you are touching approximately 400 lives, and we thank you for your support from the bottom of our hearts. We are very proud of our incredible team, who are ready to make your stay special.



It's the little things...like flowers that play a very important part at Die Tuishuise & Victoria Manor. In summer we have beautiful flowers in our gardens, e.g., heritage heavenly smelling roses (carefully planted by Sandra), but in winter and the height of summer we really struggle to find fresh flowers. We put lavender or succulents on your pillows and towels as an extra little welcome and that is why the Christmas Trees also make a bright difference, it brightens up your house and show we care!

We will always be here, an old street in a small Karoo Town with country folk only too happy to serve you, because you are our special guest. So please relax and enjoy your stay with us because we will enjoy meeting you.

Sandra Antrobus (Owner) and Staff

Please note our staff are available in the street to attend to your needs, open gates, help with luggage etc. By day look for gentlemen in khaki clothes and ladies in white uniforms. Our night watchmen wear black and white. Please direct all queries to the reception, which is open from 07.00-22.00. In case of emergency call +27 48 881 1650 (from 7am to 21.00) +27 073 972 2414 (A.H).



Photo Credits Chris Marais



WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT...

OUR STAFF

For every guest always, there is always a friendly smile, a helpful touch, and time to chat – this is the real magic of Die Tuishuise & Victoria Manor. Wherever possible, staff members are recruited locally and trained. We have more than 40 staff, most of them have worked for us for 10 or more years, and some have been here for more than 20 years. We are incredibly grateful to our staff and very proud of them too. Without them we would not exist. The team is more of a tribe and family group, and most guests remark on this.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Our whole ethos is about conservation, we re-use everything we can, as you can see from our passion for antique furniture.

We partner with Vukusebenza, the local shelter, who get all our plastics, bottles, boxes, etc. and they recycle everything, and with this make enough money to feed up to 200 people a day!

All our appropriate food waste is given to the Animal Shelter.

WATER SAVING - every drop counts, we try where possible to harvest rain and grey water. Please help us by keeping your towels for the duration of your stay.

POWER SAVING - We have implemented an inverter and solar panel solution at the hotel. We are working towards expanding this as well with a Department of Tourism Project that we have applied for and awaiting approval for implementation.

PLASTICS - Where possible we reuse plastics and / or recycle plastics.

AMENITIES - We use refillable bottles, rather than sachets for our amenities.

Please let us know if you have any suggestions or ideas for us to help us.



CRADOCK AND OUR COMMUNITY

Our family has lived in the Cradock district since the 1890s. We love Cradock passionately and participate in local committees to help make a difference, wherever we can. 90% of our purchases are local from the supermarkets or from local producers (milk, jams, vegetables, egg) and the remaining 10% is what we can't source locally. We do everything in our power to help build, small local businesses.

We make whatever we can from our gardens, jam, preserves, jellies, flower arrangements, etc.

We have started a therapy (feel good, touch, and feel) garden in the Swimming Pool area. Feel free to walk there, pick, touch and smell, it'll be good for you!

We are the co-founders of the Karoo Food Festival (annually at the end of April) and the Schreiner: Karoo Writers Festival (annually in June), The Etienne van Heerden Veldsoiree (annually in September). These events make a significant contribution to the community of Cradock.

Tourism and Heritage

Since 1990 we have attended more than 50 trade shows in South Africa and around the world and proudly represented Cradock and Die Tuishuise & Victoria Manor at these shows.

From a Heritage perspective, we work with a local voluntary committee that does all in their power to maintain the Heritage side of Cradock. Sandra Antrobus won the Simon van der Stel Gold Medal for restoration in 1993 and has restored and saved more than 40 houses in Cradock.



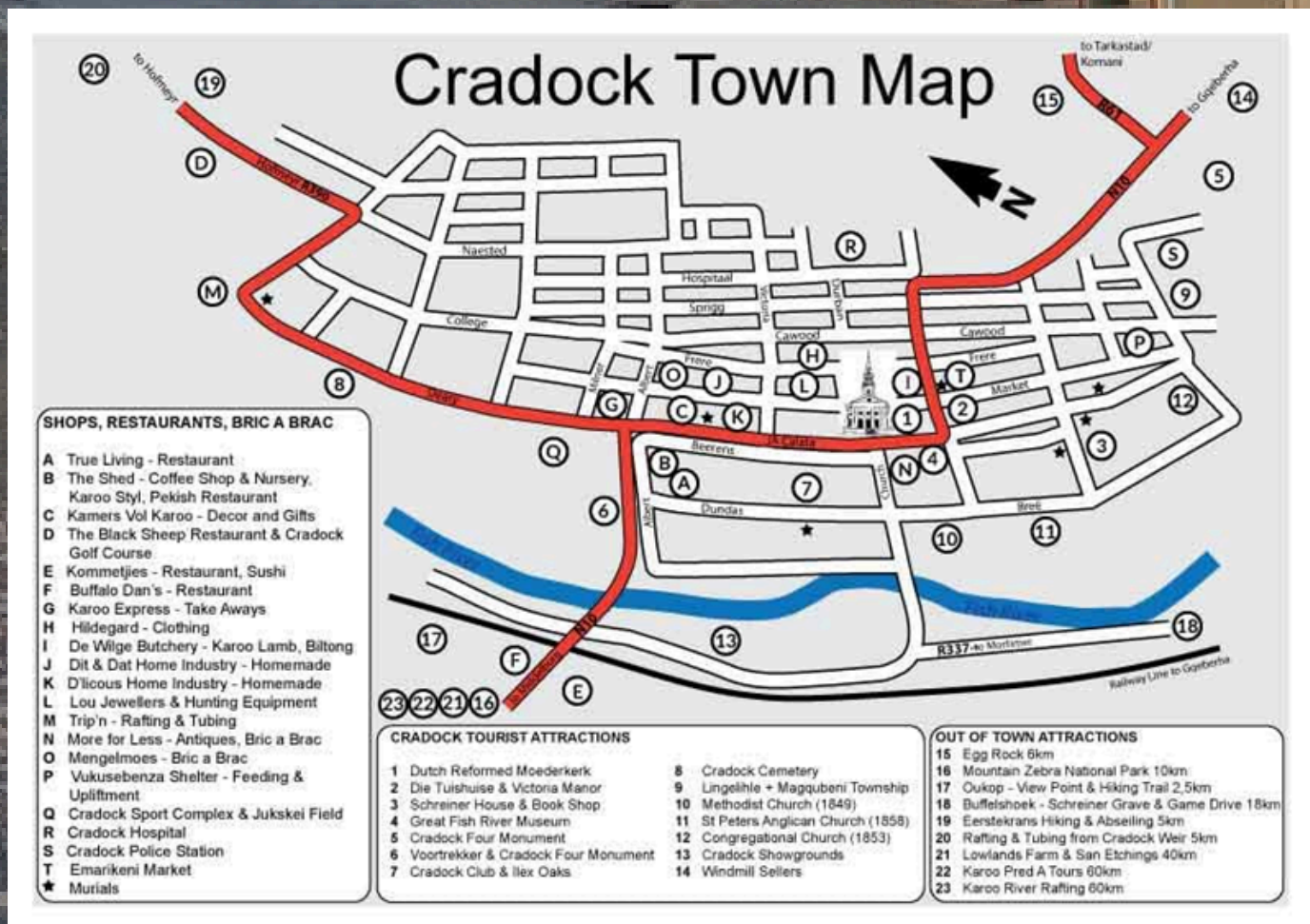
AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO CRADOCK AND DIE TUSHUISE & VICTORIA MANOR

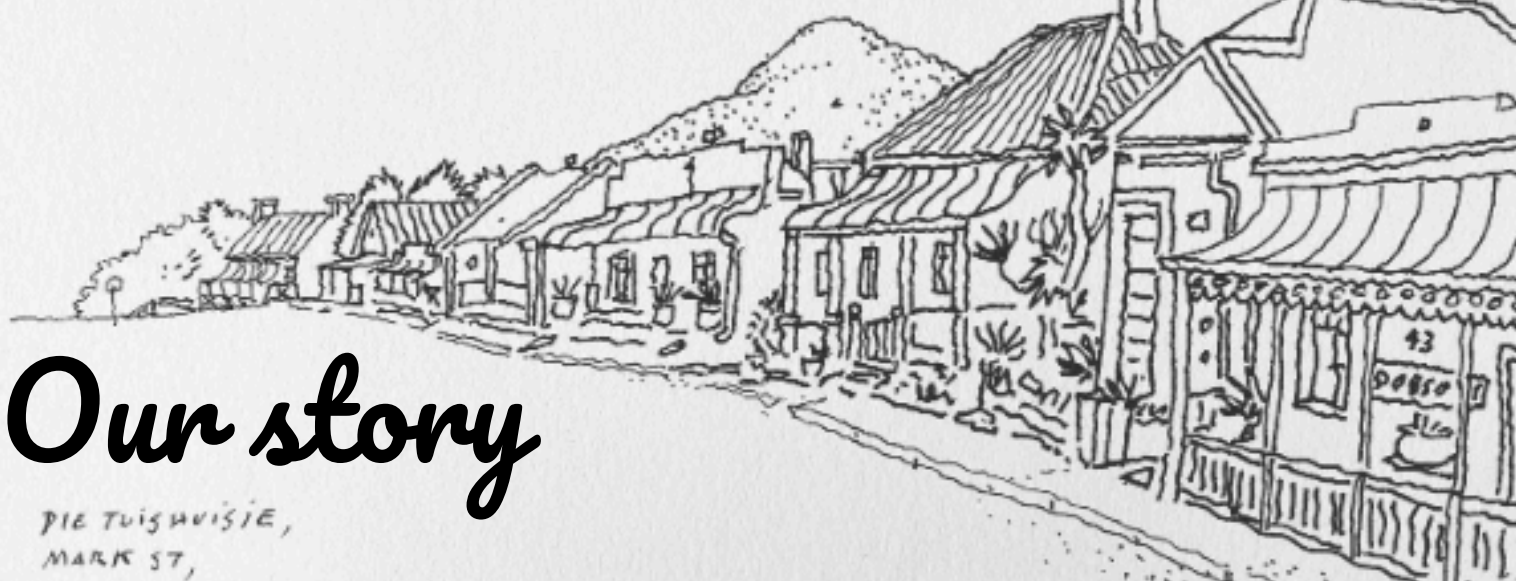
The Antrobus family have lived in Cradock for 130 years and are the 5th generation that have chosen to put our heads on Cradock beds. Geoffrey Antrobus was 18 years old when he came to live in Cradock in the late 1890s. He was on his way to Australia but “took a break” from the long ship journey in South Africa as he was given a letter of introduction to a “slow, but reliable” law firm in Cradock, Metcalf and Co, which our family still use. He married a Mitford Barber and grandfather Philip, was one of the four offspring. Great grandpa bought a veld farm 50km out of Cradock, which was used as his summer farm, in 1918 he bought a farm, called Longacre, the winter farm, on the Fish River, 20 km from town, which then became our family home. We have named a house after our farm, Longacre.



We love supporting local shops, tourist attractions, sports clubs etc. Below is a map where you will find a few of our favourite places and shops :

- N & C. Bric a Brac / Antiques - More for Less, Kamers vol Karoo
- J & K. Home Industries - Delicious (ask for Waygu and Koeksusters) & Dit en Dat
- I. Meat and Karoo Lamb- Spar, Adamis, Butchery - De Wilge and Abattoir-Rockdale
- B, C & O. Furniture and Gifts - Karmers vol Karoo, The Shed, Karoo Styl, Mengelmoes





Our story

DIE TUSHUISIE,
MARKET ST,

In the beginning, 1983... FIVE LITTLE COTTAGES on Market Street were about to be demolished. Farmer's wife Sandra Antrobus knew she just had to rescue them. To date she has rescued more than 30 in the same street – the cottages that comprise a unique hospitality project: Die Tuishuise.

'It started off my involvement with the restoration of Schreiner House which I thoroughly enjoyed,' she says. 'The plight of the cottages in Market Street fed my new passion for this kind of work. That was where it all began: I never dreamed of going into the hospitality business. One thing just led to another.'

The fact that those five cottages went for the total of R 25 000 is an indication of what state they were in. The dwellings on Market Street had been built in the 1840s for artisans – mostly involved in the transport of the day – they were saddlers, harness makers, wheelwrights and blacksmiths. Their homes would have been humble to begin with. And they started falling into disrepair from the 1920s – by then the train and the car had taken over from the wagon, robbing many of the Market Street artisans of their livelihood.

But Sandra points out this poverty was 'a blessing in disguise' as no one had the money to make any drastic changes or modernise the houses.

'I have had to replace some steel windows with wooden windows, and I've hung several cross-and-bible doors in place of cheap hollow-core doors. I have also managed to replace eight concrete verandas with wooden trims in the original style.'

THE VICTORIA HOTEL (as it was then known) was advertised as early as 1852, but it had been in business for some time before that. The story goes that the original structure was a simple private dwelling built in 1848. It was bought by Danish, Toger von Abo (see Lion House) who bought the property for his brother-in-law, a Doctor Flemmer, also from Denmark.

The building grew as money became available. When diamonds were discovered in Kimberley in 1869, the traffic through Cradock increased exponentially, as did the income. The hotel was lavishly refurbished.

‘It still has some of the beautifully pressed iron ceilings reminiscent of the Victorian era,’ says Sandra. ‘A great sadness was the removal of the broekies lace (wooden fretwork) in the 1950s due to a clause in the liquor laws, which stated that all business selling liquor, had to have concrete exteriors. In time I hope to restore it.’

The hotel became was a place of recovery and restoration from the 1870s to 1890s and again during the COVID Pandemic in 1921. According to Rose Willis’ Round-Up, September 2022, on an article about Tuberculosis (TB) in the Karoo, “From about 1870 consumptives from across Britain and Europe began streaming to the Karoo in the hopes that the clean, dry air and high altitudes of dryland would cure them. Dr E. Symes-Thompson, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, said that, in his opinion, Aliwal was an excellent area, Cradock was another good place and Tarkastad, midway between there and Queenstown, was viewed as “superior”. Local hoteliers and sanatorium owners promoted inland trips saying the journeys would be beneficial as passengers would be able to enjoy clean fresh air along the route. However, such journeys involved camping in the sweltering heat, with very little shade, or in cold and rain. Two types of private cart costing about 40 shillings a day were available.

The “American” or the Cape carts, high, two-wheeled sprung vehicles commonly used throughout South Africa and the “rough and ready” mail carts. In fine weather, and roads good a Cape cart could be quite comfortable, but in bad weather they regularly capsized or got stuck in the mud. Mail carts were sturdy, slow and cheap, costing six pennies a mile, but had no provision for the frail or invalids. Then there was the very slow ox wagon, with speeds of between 10 or 12 miles a day, it took about three weeks from the coast. Once the railway network became operational things improved as most towns were on the rail says Valerie Anne Zangel in her thesis Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Cape Town and the Karoo.



A photograph of a row of historic houses in Cradock, South Africa. The houses are built in English and Dutch styles, with white walls and green roofs. They are arranged in a row, and the street is paved. The sky is clear and blue.

Today the Karoo houses (Die Tuishuise) and Victoria Manor (the hotel) have been restored to their former splendour, recreating the gracious bygone era of the 1840's.

DIE TUISHUISE – EACH HOUSE TELLS ITS OWN STORY...

The houses were built in English and Dutch styles and each one has its own character and style 'to depict the different South African lifestyles in the pioneering days,' says Sandra. All the gardens are also themed according to the house style and lovingly tended and the flowers and fruit are used in the houses and hotel.

The names of the cottages tell their own stories. Here are some examples:

BUTLER'S named after the Butler Family. Poet and scholar, Guy Butler was born and brought up in Cradock. His aunt Mary lived in Market Street (Opstal). She was a district nurse and dedicated philanthropist working largely in the township. She started a milk fund to help fight TB in children and was instrumental in founding Pathfinders and Wayfarers (the African equivalent of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides). It is also said she was one of South Africa's earliest Quakers.

HEALTHY AND NO EPIDEMICS

When the first trickle of consumptives started to arrive in Cradock in 1871, it was a small town with healthy residents and no epidemics. Within a year that changed. William Clemence, arrived in 1872 in the hopes that “the air of Cradock would have a beneficial effect upon his constitution”. Edwin Bull arrived in 1872 and headed for Cradock where he lived for 18 months, taking a very active interest in the affairs of the town. At times he was well, but at others worse. At the time the only accommodation was at the Victoria Hotel, but it was expensive. Nevertheless, it was invariably full because it was popular among consumptives and general travellers. On occasions guests were asked to share a room, but such requests were not always well received. By 1880 a new “first-class hotel and club house’ was built opposite the Victoria, now Victoria Cottage.”



During the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) the hotel was commandeered by the British forces and it is said the cellar was used to house prisoners of war. (It is now used for parties.) The early stages of the Anglo-Boer War did not touch Cradock, the beautiful town in the upper valley of the Great Fish River. There was, in fact, never a fight in this town named after Sir John Cradock, 1st Baron Howden, a British peer, politician, soldier, governor of the Cape Colony and commander of the Forces in South Africa from 1811 to 1814. The British army, however, garrisoned the town and outlooks were posted on the surrounding hills, which offer breath taking views.

Within the town there are many reminders of the War. Victoria Manor, one of the oldest hotels in South Africa, was often at the centre of things. Lord Herbert Horatio Kitchener, Commander of the Forces, General John Denton Pinkstone French and General Douglas Haig, all stayed in the hotel while the British flying columns were tracking the commandos in this area. The hotel was also occupied from time to time by rowdy British troopers who allegedly kept Boer prisoners in the cellar below the main dining hall. It was also the central venue for concerts, ceremonies and functions, like the Queen's birthday celebrations. Four rebels were once buried near the front of the hotel, but their graves were washed away in the 1974 flood.





The Victoria changed hands several times in a wavering economy. Then, with the wool boom and the changed liquor laws of the 1950s, the hotel was treated to a facelift. Inevitably some of the original features were lost.

But the prosperity was short-lived. By 1994, when Sandra Antrobus bought the hotel, it was an outer shell with a noisy pub and very little else. The story goes that she bought it because the racket from the pub was impacting on the B&B guests in the Market Street cottages. Victoria Manor also provided a very important space in the restaurant area for the growing numbers visiting Die Tuishuise.

Almost immediately, the grand old lady of a building picked herself up and started improving. Sandra received another horrible set-back when the council destroyed the Van Riebeeck Gardens (opposite the hotel on land now occupied by a supermarket and parking lot.)



LION HOUSE Named the for the Lion Truss on the Roof, in honour of Töger von Abo Flemmer, from Copenhagen 1813-1879, who lived here. He captured wild animals (eg lions) which he sold to the zoological gardens in Europe. They were held in cages on Market Square before being transported to the harbour. He persuaded his cousin Hans Naested to move to Africa (hence Naested Street). Hans made a name for himself by collecting African artefacts and weapons and sending them to the museum in Copenhagen. He owned some of the original properties in this street. He was a Justice of the Peace and a Municipal Commissioner. In the Frontier War of 1850-1853 he guaranteed the cost of fortifying the Town Hall for the protection of women and children.

A portrait of Etienne van Heerden, a man with grey hair and a beard, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a blue patterned scarf. He is smiling and sitting on a red couch. The background is a textured wall with some dark, vertical elements. In the bottom foreground, there are some purple and yellow flowers.

ETIENNE VAN HEERDEN – the internationally renowned scholar and novelist spent his early days on a farm just outside Cradock. He is a close Antrobus family friend and an ardent supporter of all things Cradock. He visits regularly and always occupies the house named in his honour. Other well-known writers who have stayed here are completed a few of his novels in this house.

FAULDS – named after William Frederick Faulds who lived in Faulds. VC MC (1895 – 1950) was a South African soldier, and recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. He was the first South African-born man serving with South African Forces to be awarded the VC. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Faulds. “Today, we are here to remember those who demonstrated immense gallantry in the face of the enemy. Some paid the ultimate price. The 14 names inscribed on this memorial plaque were awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest military award for valour.”

01

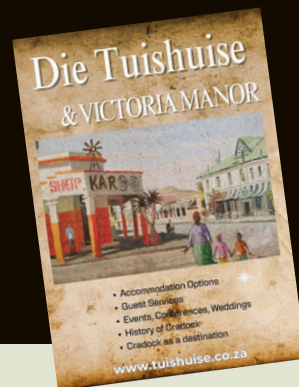
IT STARTS IN CRADOCK!

Tuis Huise
and Victoria
Mansions tell
their story



02

WHERE TO STAY



04

WHAT TO DO IN CRADOCK

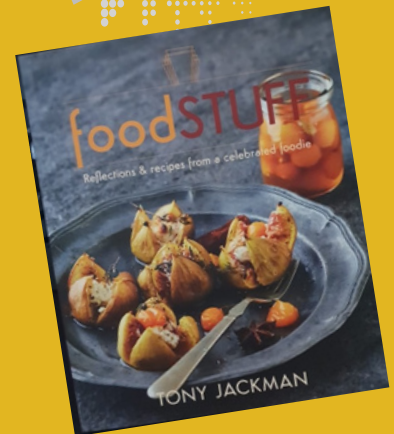
Cradock is a great
place to visit with
so many things to
see and do..

SPONSORED BY



DIE TUSHUISE & VICTORIA MANOR

WIN!



03

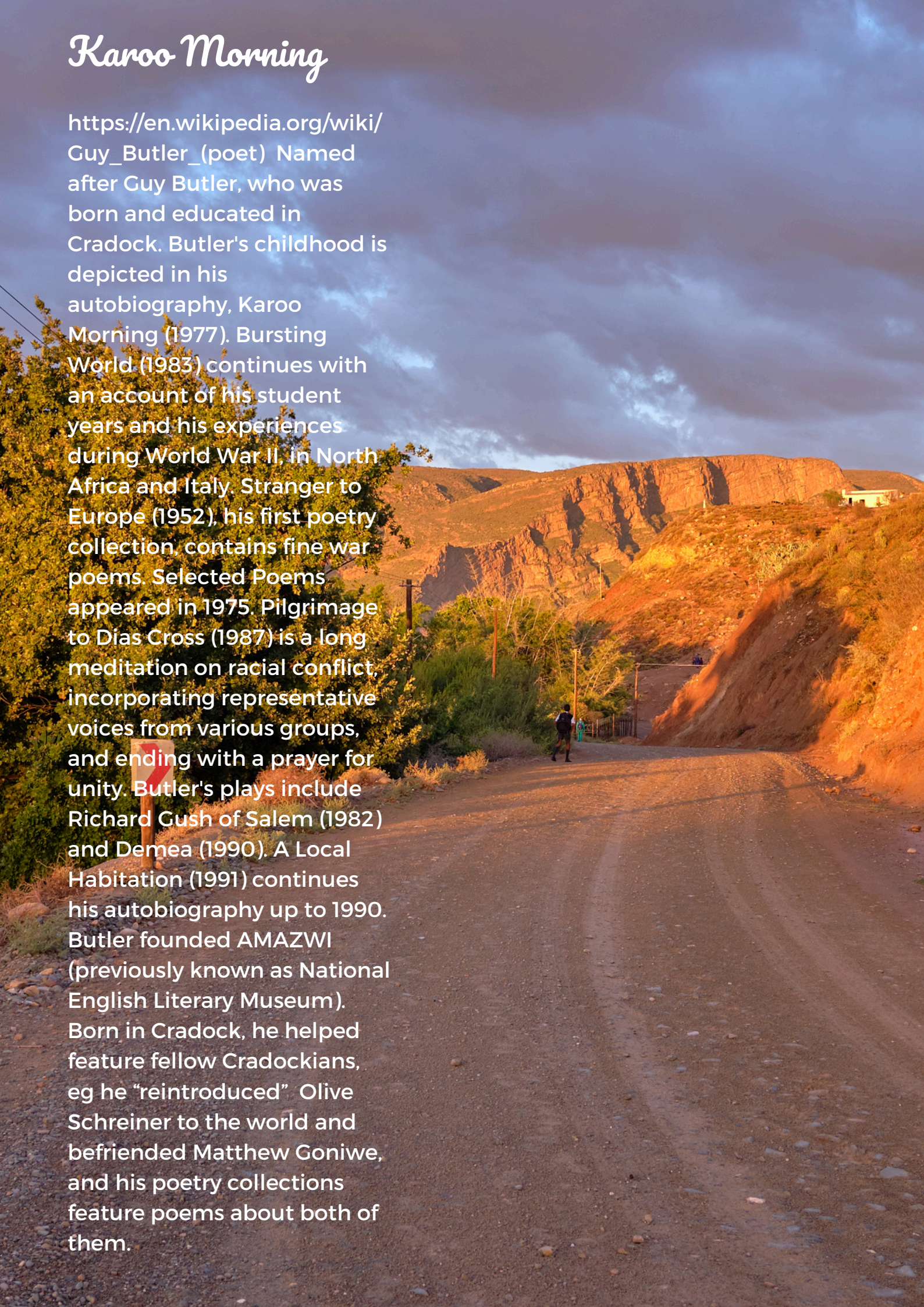
FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Enjoy the best
of the Karoo
and visit while
there is a book
or food festival



Karoo Morning

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Butler_\(poet\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Butler_(poet)) Named after Guy Butler, who was born and educated in Cradock. Butler's childhood is depicted in his autobiography, *Karoo Morning* (1977). *Bursting World* (1983) continues with an account of his student years and his experiences during World War II, in North Africa and Italy. *Stranger to Europe* (1952), his first poetry collection, contains fine war poems. *Selected Poems* appeared in 1975. *Pilgrimage to Dias Cross* (1987) is a long meditation on racial conflict, incorporating representative voices from various groups, and ending with a prayer for unity. Butler's plays include *Richard Gush of Salem* (1982) and *Demea* (1990). *A Local Habitation* (1991) continues his autobiography up to 1990. Butler founded AMAZWI (previously known as National English Literary Museum). Born in Cradock, he helped feature fellow Cradockians, eg he "reintroduced" Olive Schreiner to the world and befriended Matthew Goniwe, and his poetry collections feature poems about both of them.



PREHISTORIC CRADOCK

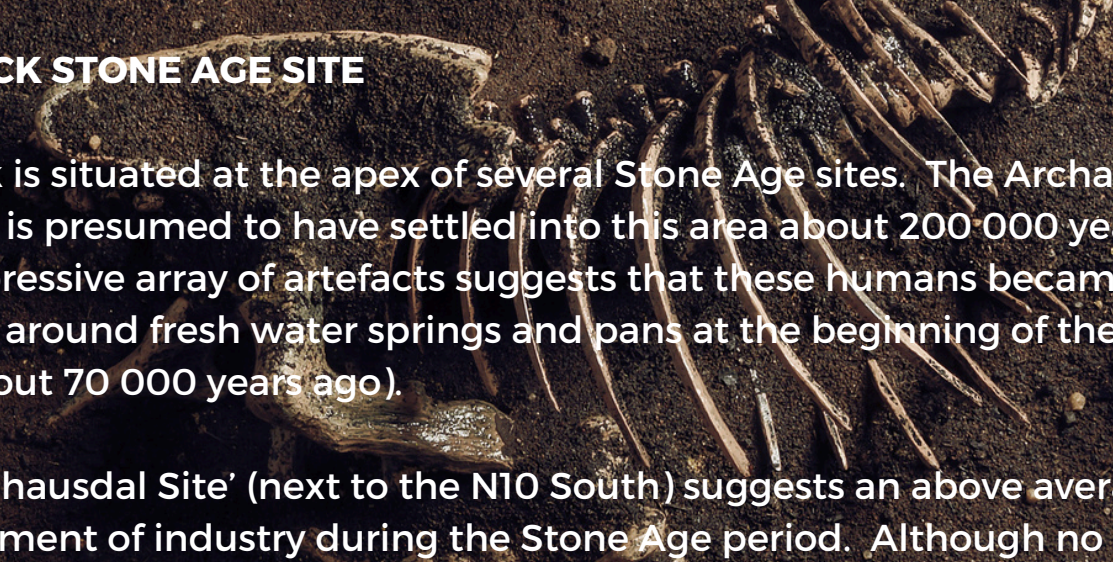


FOSSILS IN THE CRADOCK DISTRICT

In 1993, some important palaeontological discoveries that form part of the original link between mammals and reptiles were made on the farm, Lobardsrus in the Cradock district. The first discovery was of various fossilised remains of the herbivore, Lystrosaurus that lived about 220 million years ago.

The second discovery, however, was even more exciting. When Kassie Blignaut came upon a fossil, he contacted the authorities in the Department of Minerals and Energy. The fossil was identified as a specialised Synapsida, the first complete Hewittia skull ever to be found. Synapsida fossils are mainly found in South Africa and attract researchers from abroad.

CRADOCK STONE AGE SITE



Cradock is situated at the apex of several Stone Age sites. The Archaic homo sapiens, is presumed to have settled into this area about 200 000 years ago. The impressive array of artefacts suggests that these humans became isolated around fresh water springs and pans at the beginning of the last Ice Age (about 70 000 years ago).

The 'Michausdal Site' (next to the N10 South) suggests an above average development of industry during the Stone Age period. Although no extensive research has been done, it is presumed that humans were settled around several springs, which are still evident. The main settlement area is in a natural amphitheatre formed by volcanic activity. Large deposits of debris in mounds around small flat boulders suggest extensive tool making. The stone artefacts found in the Cradock area are manufactured out of a material called 'Lydianite' that is found in the hot impact zones between mudstone and dolerites.

Traces of early agriculture include a field laid out with stone, and irrigation ditches cut from one of the springs into a 'garden'. Other drainage ditches appear to have been widened to lead water away from the marsh that would form around the spring heads. There is also a very prominent earthwork not linked to water control – presumably it was a gathering place.

Olive Schreiner

Wageningen
July 12/90
My dear Fernald
I must
drop you one
word to say how
very much I
am satisfied
& pleased with
the young woman.
It is quite unusual
in a country
like this where
there is no possibility
of seeing everything
it seems to
improve number
by number.



Yours
Olive Schreiner

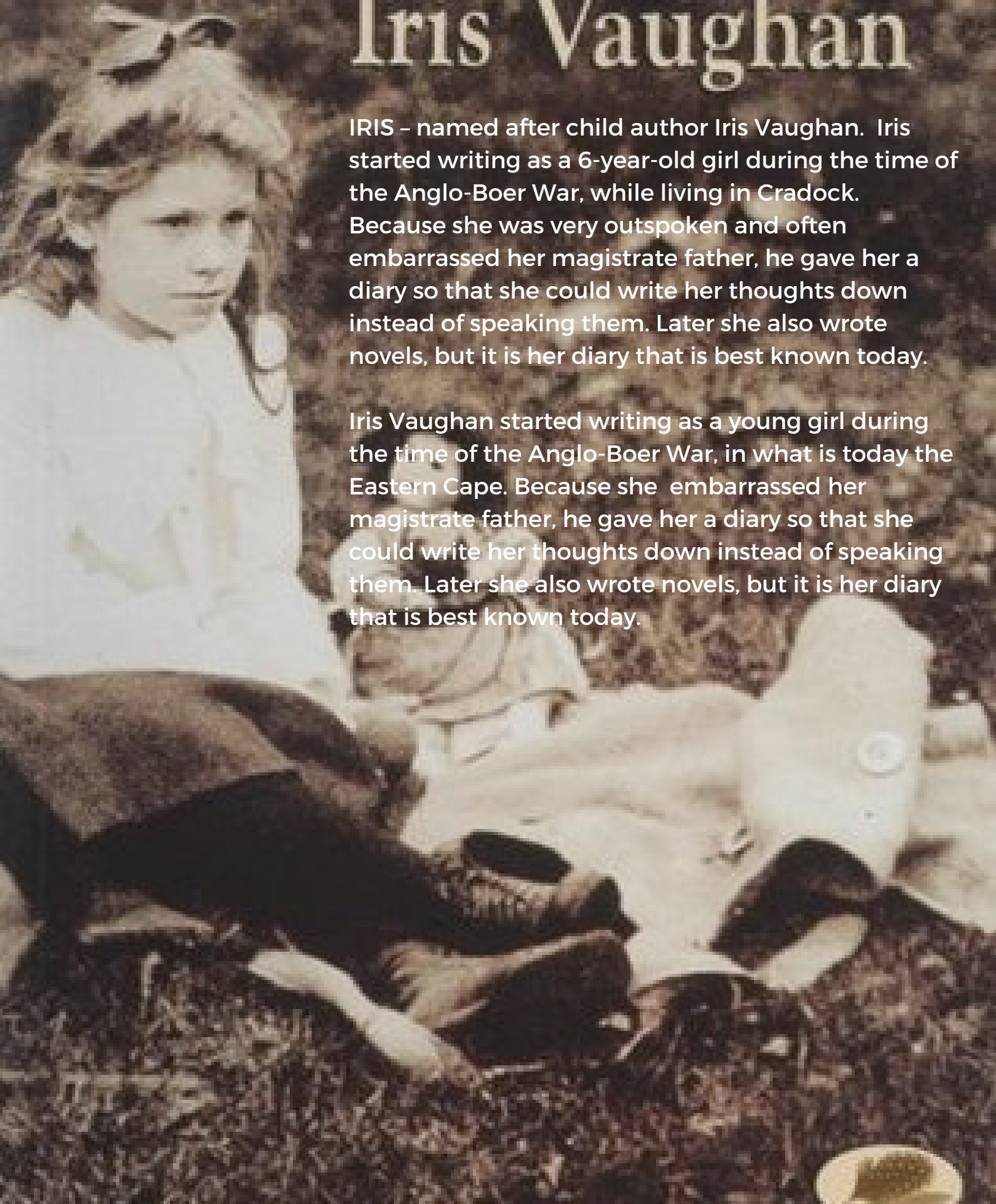
OLIVE – named after Olive Schreiner, South Africa's internationally renowned author of "The Story of an African Farm", who lived in Cradock a young girl from 1867 to 1870 and again on surrounding farms throughout her life. She was anti-imperialism, a political activist and fought for women's rights. Visiting the Schreiner House is a must.

Since the late 20th century, scholars have also credited Schreiner as an advocate for the Afrikaners, and other South African groups who were excluded from political power for decades, such as indigenous blacks, Jews, and Indians. Although she showed interest in socialism, pacifism, vegetarianism, and feminism amongst other topics, her views escaped restrictive categorisations. Her published works and other surviving writings promote implicit values such as moderation, friendship, and understanding amongst all peoples, and avoid the pitfalls of political radicalism, which she consciously eschewed. Called a lifelong freethinker, she also continued to adhere to the spirit of the Christian Bible and developed a secular version of the worldview of her missionary parents, with mystical elements.

The Diary of Iris Vaughan

IRIS – named after child author Iris Vaughan. Iris started writing as a 6-year-old girl during the time of the Anglo-Boer War, while living in Cradock. Because she was very outspoken and often embarrassed her magistrate father, he gave her a diary so that she could write her thoughts down instead of speaking them. Later she also wrote novels, but it is her diary that is best known today.

Iris Vaughan started writing as a young girl during the time of the Anglo-Boer War, in what is today the Eastern Cape. Because she embarrassed her magistrate father, he gave her a diary so that she could write her thoughts down instead of speaking them. Later she also wrote novels, but it is her diary that is best known today.



JK Rowling, creator of the billion-dollar boarding school fantasy series, is famous for putting her hero Harry Potter in harm's way. But does she know that he has been lying in a Karoo grave for nearly a century? In a strange time warp of fate, Cradock in the Karoo Heartland might well hold the secret to Harry's fate. The river town – with its back to the spekboom thickets of the Eastern Cape and its front to the vastness of the Karoo plains – boasts a classic country cemetery that becomes a vampire movie set with the first swirl of morning mist.

And somewhere in the midst of departed nuns, frontiersmen and soldiers who fell in the Anglo-Boer War, is the gravestone of none other than Harry Potter. All we know is that Harry was a 'beloved husband' who died on 27 July 1910, at the age of 46.

Cradock cemetery is home to the grave of the legendary Harry Potter. The Harry Potter buried at the Cradock Cemetery in the Karoo town, died 98 years ago aged 47 years. His resting place, according to locals, was "discovered" by German, Taphophile (graver) Thomas Kott who goes around the world in search of graves of famous personalities. His tombstone is frequently visited by tourists to the town, often out of disbelief that there is another Harry Potter - just out of pure inquisitiveness. Inscribed on the tombstone which is situated in a densely filled graveyard reads: "In Sacred Memory of Harry Potter – died July 27 1910. Aged 47 years. I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee."



Lavender is used mainly for its essential oil. For every kilogram of fresh English lavender put through the distillation process about 5 to 8 millilitres of essential oil is produced. When Lavandins are distilled they produce about twice the oil but with a more medicinal fragrance because of its higher camphor content. The essential oil of English Lavender is prized by the perfume industry because of its floral scent.

Lavender oil is also used medicinally as an antiseptic and anti bacterial agent. The oil is good as an insect repellent and is also used in aromatherapy. The oil is also used as a flavouring agent by the food and beverage industry. Lavender is can also be dried as a fragrant potpourri and as dried flower arrangements. It grows beautifully in the Karoo.



ROBERT
REDFORD

MERYL
STREEP

A SYDNEY POLLACK Film

OUT OF AFRICA

The décor of this light and airy house is inspired by the romance of the movie "Out of Africa". The accents are white and light with original campaign furniture and safari touches. This two bedroom, one bathroom house has a combined dining and lounge area, with a spacious kitchen and a delightful garden. Out of Africa is suitable for a family of four, a couple, friends who don't mind sharing a bathroom or for someone travelling on their own.



A MIRAGE Production "OUT OF AFRICA"

KLAUS MARIA BRANDAUER

Co-Producers: TERRY CLEGG, Executive Producers: KIM JORGENSEN, JUDITH THURMAN, and ANNA CATALDI, Screenplay by JOHN BARRY

Directed by KURT LUEDTKE, Produced and Screenplay by SYDNEY POLLACK

Victoria (Alexandrina Victoria; 24 May 1819 – 22 January 1901) was Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20 June 1837 until her death in 1901. Her reign of 63 years and 216 days, which was longer than any of her predecessors, is known as the Victorian era. It was a period of industrial, political, scientific, and military change within the United Kingdom, and was marked by a great expansion of the British Empire. In 1876, the British Parliament voted to grant her the additional title of Empress of India.

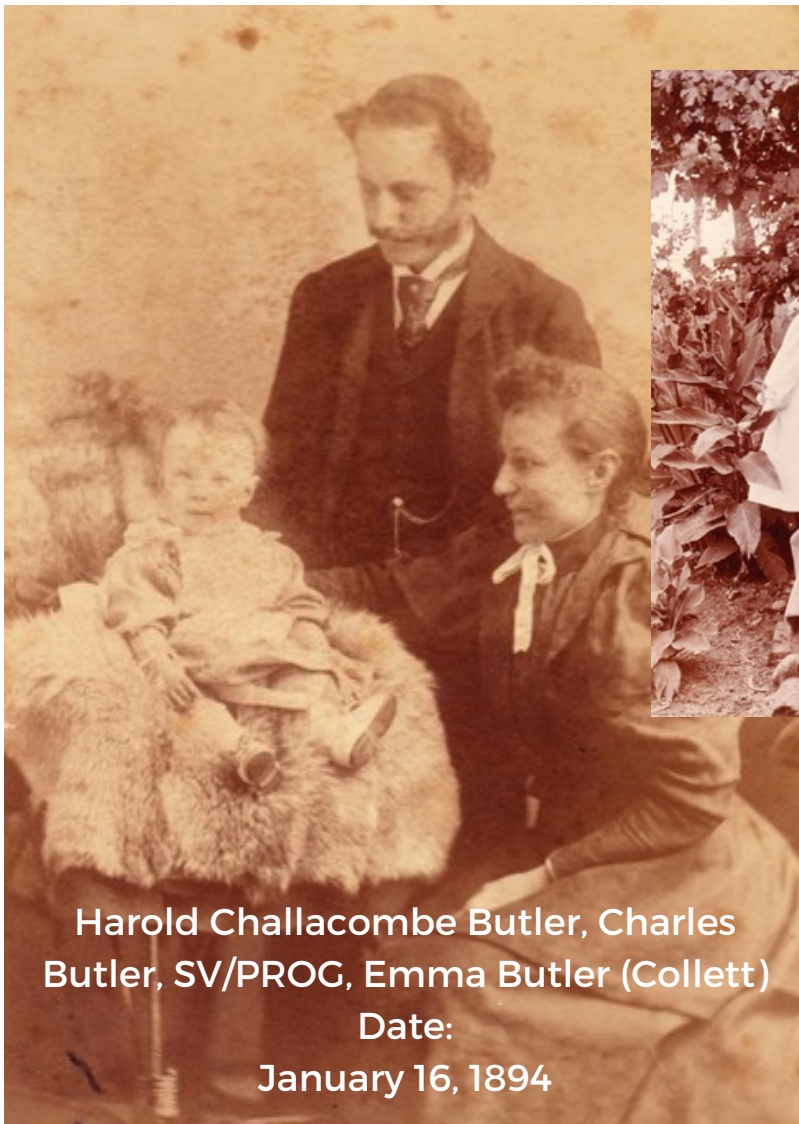
Victoria was the daughter of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn (the fourth son of King George III), and Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld. After the deaths of her father and grandfather in 1820, she was raised under close supervision by her mother and her comptroller, John Conroy. She inherited the throne aged 18 after her father's three elder brothers died without surviving legitimate issue. Victoria, a constitutional monarch, attempted privately to influence government policy and ministerial appointments; publicly, she became a national icon who was identified with strict standards of personal morality

Victoria House



OPSTAL HOUSE

Mary Butler, Butlers, one of Die Tuishuise, named after her, and her family. She lived in Opstal House. She was the first township nurse in Cradock and was appointed in 1927 to run a dispensary because of a donation from Mr Alfred Metcalf and the activities of the Cradock Woman's Civic Association. During her ten years as township nurse, she created a milk fund to combat tuberculosis especially among children and was instrumental in the formation of Pathfinders and Wayfarers – The African equivalent to boy Scouts and Girl Guides. It is reputed that she started the Quaker movement in South Africa. She is the aunt of Guy Butler.



Harold Challacombe Butler, Charles Butler, SV/PROG, Emma Butler (Collett)
Date:
January 16, 1894



"The Cradock Butlers "The two butler families of Cradock. Our grandfather (Harold Challacombe Butler) with white collar on the right. +- 8 years old." STANDING: Mary, Ernest, Florence. SEATED: Annie (with Ada & Kathleen), James (with James), Emma (with Joe), Charles (with Grace) Harold. IN FRONT: Ada and Douglas. (James' family complete (7); Charles has Dot to come (5).)"

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT CRADOCK

- Cradock was established in 1814 and celebrated its bicentenary in 2014.
- Cradock is one of the oldest towns in South Africa

1 Cape Town 1652

2 Stellenbosch 1679

3 Simon's Town 1680

4 Paarl 1687

5 Swellendam 1746

6 Graaff-Reinet 1786

7 Tulbagh 1795

8 Uitenhage 1804

9 George & Caledon 1811

10 Griquatown & Grahamstown 1812

11 Cradock 1814



- The Victoria Manor is one of the oldest hotels still in South Africa

1 1779 Houw Hoek Grabouw

2 1780 Cape Heritage Hotel Cape Town

3 1802 Ouwe Werf Stellenbosch

4 1804 Drostdy Hotel Graaff-Reinet

5 1832 Pig & Whistle Bathurst

6 1848 Victoria Manor Cradock

7 1880 Queens Hotel Oudtshoorn

8 1881 Kimberley Club Kimberley

9 1899 Mount Nelson Cape Town

10 1884 Lord Milner Matjiesfontein



- Victoria Manor was home to the British Sherwood Officers during the South African War. The Cellar in the hotel was used as a Boer prison during the war.

- The Great South African statesman and first President, Paul Kruger was christened in Cradock in 1826, in the NG Church.

- Afrikaans was published for the first time ever in Cradock by 26-year-old John Southward Bold, owner of the Cradock News. He published Louis Meurant's report on the separation of the Eastern Cape from the Western Cape. The first article appeared on 4 December 1868, 3000 copies were printed, giving the Cradock News the biggest circulation of any newspaper in South Africa at the time.

- Olive Schreiner, lived in Cradock 1867-8170 and later again. She is the first South African author to have published a book, *Story of an African Farm*. She, together with Karl Marx's daughter started a worldwide feminist movement.
- Cradock was the last place in South Africa where arms were laid down at the end of the South African War, four days later the Peace of Vereeniging was signed in 1902.
- Electricity was first introduced in 1914, 100 years after Cradock was established.
- A UFO was seen in the Cradock area on 5 July 1968. It was a ball of light surrounded by mist and it was spotted by someone in the Fish River district.
- Cradock's cricket ground and library are the second oldest in South Africa.
- Telephones were introduced to Cradock in 1910 and automatic telephones in 1977.



- King Edward the VIII visited the Cradock area in 1925. Formerly known as the Prince of Wales he arrived at the Cradock station and briefly addressed the crowd. His hand was bandaged because his hand was sore from shaking so many people's hands. He became King Edward the VIII in 1936 but had to abdicate as he married Mrs Simpson who was twice divorced.
- Jan Smuts came to Cradock to witness a total eclipse of the sun, with Cradock being the best place to view it. He stood on a koppie on the farm sanctuary, which belonged to Bobby Millar at that time. He was scheduled to arrive at 10.00 am by aeroplane in 1942. He was conscious of security dangers so caught the train instead. He arrived at the airstrip by car, which astonished both the spectators and officials.

INTERESTING INHABITANTS OF CRADOCK

Danes who settled in Cradock in the 1850s made a significant contribution to the development of Cradock. Danskerne deltog i og bidrog meget til fællesskabets fremme

1. Töger von Abo from Copenhagen 1813-1879. He used to live in Market Street and collected wild animals for the zoological gardens in Europe and had cages on the Town Square for the lions he sent to Europe. He owned some of the original properties in this street. He was a Justice of the Peace and a Municipal Commissioner. In the Frontier War of 1850-1853 he guaranteed the cost of fortifying the Town Hall for the protection of women and children.
2. Dr Christian August Flemmer from Kørsor 1813-1870. Arrived with his wife Betty and their seven children in 1853. They lived in a house on the site of the Annex of the Victoria Hotel. Dr. Flemmer served the community for many years and was involved in early efforts to provide better education for the children of Cradock
3. Hans Michael Naested from Holbæk 1827-1870. Arrived with the Flemmer party to whom he was related. He married Camilla Flemmer in 1860 and was a prominent trader and farmer in the area. For many years he served on the Town and Divisional Councils with distinction.
4. Carl Källund - in 1857 he owned the land where the Olive Schreiner House now stands. He was a carpenter, joiner and builder for the growing town.

HUBER W JAMES 1883 – 1974

Called “Birdie” because he was an expert on birds. He discovered rare Karoo birds as well as two unknown succulent plants, which were named after him with Latin names ending in jamesis. He moved to South Africa at the age of 21 from Watford, England because of chest problems. He was a farm manager and built cement dams. He was also secretary to the Cradock Mutual Business, but it was a part time job as the bank only opened once week.



GENERAL KRITZINGER (SOUTH AFRICA WAR)

He was referred to by the British troops as “the Gentleman”. He was a member of the deputation that toured the continents England and America to raise funds for the children of Boer forces who had suffered because of the war. On his return he met and married Dora Michau from Cradock. They settled on the farm “Fleurville” a few kilometres outside to the town. Find his grave in the Cradock Graveyard



MARY BUTLER

Butlers, one of Die Tuishuise, is named after her, and her family. She lived in Opstal House. She was the first township nurse in Cradock and was appointed in 1927 to run a dispensary because of a donation from Mr Alfred Metcalf and the activities of the Cradock Woman’s Civic Association. During her ten years as township nurse, she created a milk fund to combat tuberculosis especially among children and was instrumental in the formation of Pathfinders and Wayfarers – The African equivalent to boy Scouts and Girl Guides. It is reputed that she started the Quaker movement in South Africa. She is the aunt of Guy Butler.



SIR JOSEPH BENJAMIN ROBINSON (BORN IN CRADOCK 3 AUGUST 1840)

He was the chairman of the Robinson group of mines in South Africa. He started in wool buying and farming until 1867. He accrued 20 000 acres of the Vaal River where he found diamonds. He was the Mayor of Kimberly in 1880.

SIR ABE BAILEY (BORN IN CRADOCK 6 APRIL 1864)

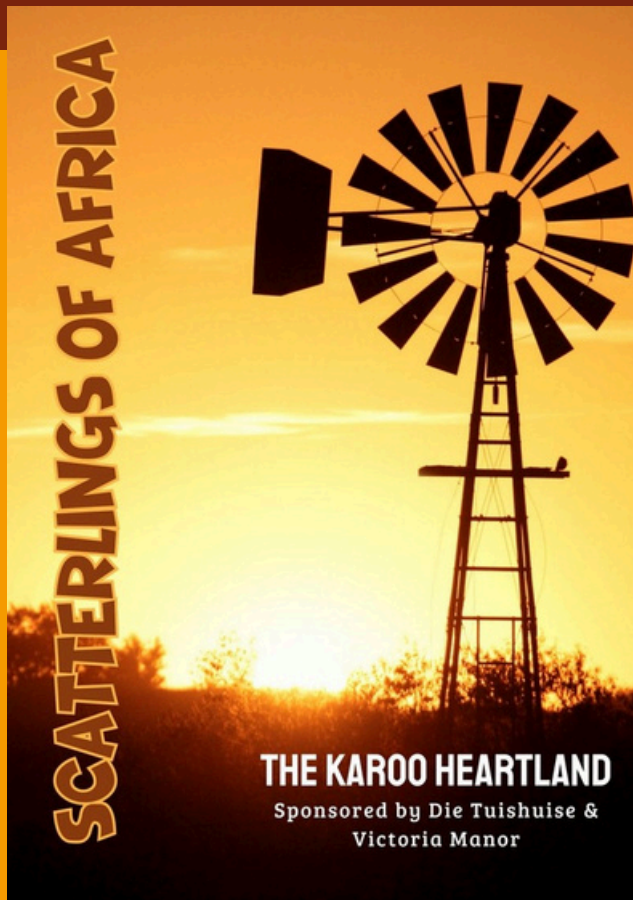
He was a member of the legislative assembly of the former Transvaal, representing Krugersdorp. He joined the gold rush to Barberton in 1886 afterwards moving to Johannesburg where he was imprisoned for alleged involvement in the Jameson Raid.

SIR THOMAS CHARLES SCANLEN

He was the chairman of the Cradock municipality from 1869 – 1877. He later became Prime Minister and Attorney General of the Cape from 1881 – 1884. He was knighted and became Sir Thomas Scanlen. He is the son of Charles Pakenham Scanlen who led the Cradock Burghers in the Frontier war of 1846–1847. His house is now the Cradock Club.



Scatterlings of Africa



We are big on sport such as golf and tennis but there is so much history around our area, its hard to take it all in! And here we list all the activities from museums to sporting activities and don't forget we are part of the Karoo Heartland Association and that's a whole lot more to do!

There are those that are born in Cradock and those that arrived here and never left. We share their stories and then you will know you will be a part of the journey.

So much to do in the Karoo and it centres around Cradock

History of Cradock

Michael Buster hosts the Forgotten Wars Podcast, a more than 40-chapter podcast with the first season focusing on these clashes over control of southern Africa with the bulk of the season focusing on Anglo-Boer Wars, fought in the 1880s and early 1900s. While reading, listen to his point of view.

Some have mischaracterized the Anglo-Boer War as the British Empire's Vietnam War, while others have drawn parallels between it and US invasion of Iraq in 2003, or just another war over natural resources (in this case gold and diamonds). But the ripple effects and implications of this regional war go way beyond the boundaries of South Africa.

