

Friday 22, May 2020

Grocott DIRECT

Grocott's Mail - 150 years



Back to school

p2



The second 40 years

p9



Bootlegger

p5

Lockdown sunrise



Grey Dam at daybreak earlier this month. 'I am mostly a landscape photographer,' says Tom Jeffery. 'I love to make images of urban and rural landscapes and seascapes, and I try to find ways to reconnect people with the city that we all love and which has suffered so in recent years. When the nation was placed on lockdown, I was forced to shift my focus from expansive landscapes to our garden and I hope the photos I shared brought some pleasure to the people who saw them. That said, I was ecstatic when Level 4 meant I could get out for sunrise again, and this shot of Grey Dam is one of the first that I took.' Photo: Tom Jeffery See more at www.tomjeffery.co.za and on page 14.

Back to school Take 2

It's been difficult to decide what to include in this week's Grocott's Direct because there's so much to share.

Makana Municipality has lost its bid to appeal the 14 January judgment ordering that it be put under administration.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

Key to the Unemployed People's Movement's campaigns was Gladys Mpepho, who passed away this week. [Read the tributes here.](#)

Back to school – how do you feel? We look at local preparations for the imminent move back into classrooms.

The National Arts Festival is well under way in its planning to stage a digital festival this year, complete with an online Village Green.

Through webinars, the Festival Team is engaging with artists and audiences about how it will work and how to be part of it.

It was a bold and visionary decision to keep the creative flame alive in Makhanda. But no matter how successful this iteration is, nothing can replace foot traffic when it comes to the annual boost to our town's economy. Local traders talk about winter without the Festival.

Anxiety, anger and hope as schools prepare for partial opening

By NASI HAKO, USISIPHO BATYI, and ROD AMNER

Makhanda's schools are in very different states of readiness for the return of Grade 7 and 12 learners on June 1, while anxious principals express deep concern for the safety of teachers and learners.

Gadra Education manager, Ashley Westaway, has lauded the "political bravery" of Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga for "staring down the unions" in her back-to-school announcement on Tuesday night.

Though Motshekga outlined measures to be put in place to ensure a safe environment, some local principals said they were in the dark about what needed to be done on the ground to protect teachers and pupils.

Motshekga said while she "cannot guarantee that nobody will die", learners must have access to education.

However, Makana Primary School principal, Mkhosi Williams, said it would "be a miracle if government fulfilled all the promises that were made by Angie".

Motshekga said the department was "making progress" in the delivery of sanitisers, personal protective equipment, the provision of water in those schools without water and the deep cleaning of schools. She had previously said that schools would not open without these provisions in place.

However, in a fierce joint statement issued by teacher unions on Wednesday, said a national survey of 9365 school principals has revealed that: 79% of the respondents have not received regulations on how to deal with health and safety issues. Sixty per cent report that their circuit manager has not yet been in touch with them and 60% of Eastern Cape principals said their schools do not have adequate access to water for Covid-related washing.

In addition:

- * 95% of schools have not yet been disinfected;
- * 92% do not have material for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces during the day.
- * 78% do not have soap and water;
- * 99% have insufficient masks so that each learner and teacher have at least two;



Social distancing in Makhanda's crowded schools will be difficult, worried teachers and principals warn. File photo (January 2020): Sue Maclennan

* 84% of principals said they have not yet discussed safety procedures with the SGB.

Makana Primary's Williams said, "I doubt we are ready and I doubt the learners are ready."

He said his Education Development Officer (EDO) had said nothing about personal protective equipment (PPE) and was "more concerned about acknowledging money deposited by government and creating spreadsheets for cash payment, maintenance, consumables, and municipality costs".

"The government is out of touch with what is happening in our schools."

Williams said the EDO had suggested that the school run four separate classes of Grade 7 learners, consisting of 20 learners in each class. But, there are just two Grade 7 teachers.

Teachers with underlying illnesses and who are 60 years and older were told they can't work – which discounts the principal himself.

"Most of our classes have 64 or more learners," Williams said. "How, then, does one obtain a metre-and-a-half of social distancing? I doubt it will work," he said.

"And for our learners' parents, their first

worry is food security rather than hand sanitisers and masks," Williams said.

However, Grahamstown Primary School principal, Leon Coetzee, said his school had received funding for the use of sanitisers, PPE, and other basic needs.

Coetzee said he had "no idea" whether learners and teachers would arrive on June 1: "It all depends on the feelings of the parents and the guidelines that the government sets out."

"It's a Catch 22 – on the one hand you want academics to continue and on the other hand you're wary of learner safety," he said.

Ntsika Secondary School principal, Madeleine Schoeman, said she was not certain the school would open next week: "The unions say that unless all PPE is in place, no teacher should put their lives in danger and there is a lot that has to happen still in preparation."

However, she said she was "so grateful" for the information and support provided by the Department of Basic Education.

On the other hand, Ntsika had not received any PPE yet and will need extra staff to cope. "But, we are on the right path – we just need to prioritise the Grade 12s for now," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Online learning has been a lifeline for many Makhanda learners, but thousands without internet access have had no schooling for two months. Photo: Burst: Shopify.Com

Lockdown widens the gap for Makhanda learners

By USISIPHO BATYI, LINDANI DONYELI

and ROD AMNER

With most learners are set to return to classrooms as late as August, WhatsApp groups and online lessons will continue to be a lifeline for thousands of Makhanda learners under the COVID-19 lockdown.

But, with little or no online access, children from poorly resourced schools have already spent two months with no school at all.

This week marks the second month that schools across the country have been closed. While several schools have stepped up with online lessons and resources, the sudden national lockdown and its subsequent extension left many of Makhanda's non-fee-paying schools unprepared.

Principals say the effects of interrupted schooling are most severe for disadvantaged learners. Makana Primary principal, Nkhosi Williams said, "We never thought the lockdown would cause us not to do anything."

"We don't have all the parents' telephone numbers, therefore we have no communication with our learners."

Many of the school's learners come from the informal settlements of eNkanini and Transit Camp.

"These children have spent two months without school material or educational activities. They've had no form of learning at all," Williams said.

"It will take a miracle for us to finish the curriculum."

Ntsika Secondary School principal, Madeleine Schoeman, says the school has done its best to reach their learners via the Grade 10-12 Facebook page and WhatsApp groups.

"We are using every means to help them wherever we can," Schoeman said. "We buy data for them and students borrow each other's phones."

"However, it's not ideal because the work is not being assessed. This makes it extremely difficult for us to check the progress of each learner."

Owam Pheli, Grade 8 learner at Nombulelo Public School, says she has received learning resources from her teacher via WhatsApp and she has submitted work for assessment.

"I feel great about it. I have not experienced any problems," she said.

Schools prepare for partial opening

FROM PAGE 2

"We are, of course, worried because we haven't reached the peak of the pandemic in South Africa."

Williams agreed: "Experts are saying the worst is still to come."

"Government takes it as though we don't want to go back to school. But, we are worried that learners aren't able to social distance – by nature they share everything and play together. I am worried that learners will also share masks."

Meanwhile, all the Gadra Matric School, teachers have agreed to return to work on June 1.

Gadra Education manager, Ashley Westaway, said it was important to demonstrate to parents that it was possible for learners to return to school. "Parents should be able to draw confidence from seeing kids going back to school at places like Gadra, Graeme, Victoria Girls, PJ Olivier. Some people are very fearful and uninformed – and the knee-jerk response is to say, 'My kid must not go to school!'"

"The measures we are taking at Gadra are pretty extreme. We will be teaching from Monday to Saturday and we will resort to teaching the most extreme form of block teaching possible – a class is taught for a whole day and the learner will be at their desk the day. There's no other person that's going to be sitting on that chair for that day."

"There will be a particular way of entering and exiting a classroom," he said. "When we open we must do everything absolutely correctly to protect the health and safety of our students. And in that way, we show leadership and instil confidence in our community. We show that it's appropriate for our children to go back to school."

"Hopefully, by the end of June, all schools in Grahamstown will be up and running in some form or another," Westaway said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Lockdown widens the gap for Makhanda learners

FROM PAGE 3

Owam's mother, Lumka Pheli, said her daughter does not have a phone. "So, she is using mine – sometimes, she has to go to her friends to be updated because I am struggling to get data. I do not work."

Thembela Dayimani is the mother of two Andrew Moyakhe Primary learners. "The kids are not receiving any work from school and I feel bad about this.

"I want the kids to go back to school as education is the key," she said.

Asenathi Mthwalo, a Grade 11 learner at Nathaniel Nyaluza High, said she had also not received any work from the school. "At Nyaluza, it is only Grade 12s who are receiving work."

While older learners are more likely to adapt to online learning, a relatively small proportion of our town's high school learners have been able to access the excellent resources available.

One Victoria Girls' High School Grade 12 learner said, "My whole grade 12 class is obviously in a privileged situation because we have access to good textbooks, communicative teachers and resources

being sent to us.

"On the other hand, a lot of people I know have been really struggling with the whole data thing, especially with emails. It seems like most have access to data now for WhatsApp, either from their parents or from a couple of teachers who have been helping out. So, the teachers have been sending work on WhatsApp groups.

"Those of us who have WiFi at home have a significant advantage in this situation as well. We all get that this is a huge privilege but at the same time, it's been an extremely stressful time.

"I know that most of my grade is far behind in most subjects. We've been sent a huge amount of work and assignments which is to be expected for matric, but I've found that it also takes a lot longer to try and teach yourself a subject. I feel like there are not enough hours in the day for all the work being sent to us. It's also really distracting being at home because there is no structure to work within. I know most of my friends have destroyed their sleep schedules.

"Being in matric is supposed to be hard. You're supposed to learn to work somewhat independently and time-manage effectively.

But the stress of school combined with the stress of a global pandemic is a bit excessive. The kids in apocalypse movies never keep up with their school work and I can see why," she said.

Gadra Education Manager Ashley Westaway said that among no-fee-paying schools, the impact would vary.

"For example schools that are linked with the Rhodes University mentoring programmes for grade 12s will perform much better than schools without such support," Westaway said.

The mentoring programme partnered by Gadra matric school and Rhodes University has given data to grade 12s and university student mentors conduct virtual learning sessions to help Grade 12s catch up with the curriculum.

From 2020 to 2019, the town's matric results dropped from 78.1% to 75.9%, with non-fee-paying schools making up the bulk of the lower-end results. It seems likely that once again, learners at the town's poorest schools have the least chance of overcoming the additional challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic has thrown their way.



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Home brewer recounts the day the soldiers came

By JULIAN JACOBS

Selling alcohol and cigarettes was made illegal at the start of the Covid-19 lockdown in South Africa and the ban remains during the current stage 4 version. This has seen bootleggers thrive, charging exorbitant prices.

Also thriving under the lockdown is home brewing - which is fine if you brew for your own use, but not if you brew to sell. One home brewer in Joza's Extension 6 recounted to Grocott's Mail her encounter with the Covid-19 lockdown laws and the soldiers enforcing them. Unathi (not her real name) shivered as she told her story to Grocott's Mail through an interpreter.

"At first the police came, since they know I sell home-brewed beer and they told me to stop," said Unathi.

But it's how she earns a living.

"I did not stop. This time around the army came."

She remembers the day vividly.

"They saw some people sitting in the house drinking. I was terrified when they stopped in front of my house," she said.

The soldiers told her to take the beer from her customers and pour it down the drain.

"Here," she said, pointing to an outside drain. "They took me here and made me pour it all out," said Unathi.

It was rumoured across the township that the soldiers forced her to drink her own brew, but that didn't happen, Unathi said.

"That did not happen. They were nice to me."

Before she started her home-brewing business, Unathi used to sell sheep heads and trotters at a local tavern. She worked long hours and had to walk home in the dark.

"I was robbed so many times of the money I used to make," she said. "So I decided to brew and sell at home. I have been selling this alcohol for more than two years now."



Brown sugar, yeast and warm water are among the essential ingredients for her brew.

"Once I've mixed the ingredients I let it stand overnight. I know exactly how long it must stay like this. By doing this I control the strength of the beer," says Unathi.

Unathi sold her home-brewed beer for R3 a litre.

"I had lots of customers and they came from everywhere, but now I have to wait till month end to get money from the two

grants this household receives," she said.

"It's difficult. Now if I run out of something to eat, I have to ask my neighbours. It's not like before, where I could afford everything."

When we asked her if she would sell alcohol again, she said, "No, I am too terrified. I am done."

She says since her business was closed, many others in the neighbourhood had started to sell illegal alcohol at their premises and the police were not doing anything about it.



Makana's Fire Chief William Welkom and Mayor Mzukisi Mpahlwa at the handover of two new fire-fighting bakkies. The vehicles were supplied by the Sarah Baartman District Municipality which has spent R8 million on fire-fighting equipment and vehicles this year. The bakkies will be placed on Makana's asset register; however, their insurance will be paid by the District Municipality. Photo: Supplied

Traders brace for empty streets this Festival

By LILY ROBERTS

From people who put up posters, to maintenance, cleaning and security services, informal and formal traders, and street buskers, the Festival is an annual winter bonanza for Makhanda. This year it will be different, writes Lillian Roberts.

The National Arts Festival has done one of the only things possible in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and in a show of extraordinary resilience is preparing to stage a virtual edition. This re-imagining of the iconic event now in its 46th year means artists and traders can benefit from access to an online marketplace and audience.

But no foot traffic in Makhanda means dozens of local businesses and entrepreneurs will lose out.

A study done in 2013 by the Rhodes Economics Department, spearheaded by Professor Jen Snowball and Professor Geoff Antrobus, found that the National Arts Festival contributed approximately R349.9m annually to the economy of the Eastern Cape. Festival-goers spend R27.3m entering and exiting the province, with the Festival contributing approximately R90m to the GDP of Makhanda yearly in job creation, tourism, and expenditure, the study found.

More recent research conducted in 2019 values the revenue for Makhanda at R85.9 million and R214.9 million for the Eastern Cape, said Festival spokesperson, Sascha Polkey.

Polkey said the decision to go online had been difficult, with many challenges expected which they are running into now.

But factors behind the loss of revenue were much bigger than the Festival or Makhanda.

"It is important to note that this loss of direct revenue to the city and the province is not only a function of the Festival not having a live edition, but also the cancellation of all events across the country and the mandatory shut down of all hospitality businesses, among others," Polkey said. "The actual value



Festival street photographer, Village Green 2019. Photo: Sue MacLennan

is really hard to estimate at this stage given what the Festival hopes to generate in media coverage, and of course new audiences for 2021, but we will be doing research to try and estimate the impact as best as we can."

In normal times, the National Arts Festival directly employs approximately 1000 local people during Festival. In order to mitigate the effects of this job loss, the Festival plans to employ additional staff on contract for online support and box office functions of the virtual Festival.

The Festival team plans to set up the Monument as a production venue in terms of the directive issued by the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture on 4 May 2020, and so continue engaging the services of local companies and technicians based in Makhanda.

Detailing the implications of the Stage 4 lockdown regulations on the arts, Nathi Mthethwa, said local content production for streaming without audiences is permitted, subject to strict health and safety conditions and with the proviso that "these productions should somehow add storylines in support

of Covid-19 safety measures".

"The Festival team will also be working with decentralised venues across the country to produce performances for pre-recording and live streaming, so we will also be working with nationally based technical support teams and companies to do this work," Polkey said.

The online iteration of the Festival meant artists and some of their teams would be able to make money and promote their work through the established NAF network.

"It also means that South African arts will be able to reach a much bigger audience internationally," Polkey said.

The value for the city, province and artists of the Eastern Cape will be a showcase of talent, innovation and creativity to these audiences from all over the world. While we are physically away this year, we will be extending our reach and hopefully bringing global audiences and artists back to Makhanda and the Eastern Cape when we can all travel and gather again."

'A great loss to the community'

Grocott's Mail spoke to some of those who will be affected by the absence of a live event this year.


Philippa Irvine - organiser of the Supurban Market and Sunnyside Street Festival

"The obvious streams of income like accommodation and

restaurants will be affected, but there are less obvious ways in which this will happen.

"Think of suppliers, supermarkets, small local business or residents who find an increased demand for their goods and services during the 11 days of the festival. There are many informal revenue streams for people during this time and a lot more money in circulation across the community. It will have a ripple effect for sure. Festival is such a vibrant and exciting time. Beside the economic impact of the festival, it is a great loss to the community."

The Johan Carinus Art Centre

The Centre caters for learners from public schools. During the Festival, they host art exhibitions for 15 local Eastern Cape artists, as well as workshops. Without the live version of the Festival, said spokesperson Michelle Kloppers, Carinus would be short of around R50 000 to boost their state subsidy.


Nadia Van de Walt - owner, The Washing Well laundry service

"We rely on Festival to get through the quieter months. Under lockdown, our income is zero."



Festival usually boosted turnover by up to 30% for the month thanks to visitors staying at AirBnBs, and caterers.

Louise Boy – Owner, Red Café restaurant

"The overriding concern is Covid-19 and how we are all managing to navigate and

adapt to the crisis," Boy said. Deliveries started on Monday 18 May, and while it was a learning curve, the team was raring to go. Red Café is open to recommendations for the menu. They have set up crowd funding for the waiter staff here: <https://www.facebook.com/redcafemakhanda/>


Riana Meiring - Director of Local Economic Development and Planning at Makana Municipality

Makana Municipality does not actively fund

Festival activities, but provides supporting services.

Meiring said no live Festival would inevitably bring adverse effects for the town, but this was part of the overall effect on the local economy of the lockdown. "The effect of COVID-19 is devastating on the economy and we are working with the Grahamstown Business Forum and all relevant government departments to try and mitigate the adverse effects."

Ayanda Kota - Unemployed People's Movement

COVID-19 was exacerbating the already serious effects of Makanda's 70% unemployment rate, Kota said. "We all know this city has long collapsed so [the Festival is] something that you need to inject the local economy... to say, despite this crisis of the city you are still able to stage this very wonderful and magnificent world festival."


Richard Gaybba - Chairperson, Grahamstown Business Forum

"The hospitality industry may be devastatingly hit if a business is already on the breadline, but it's the informal buskers



or those who do piece-work who will face the question of whether they eat or not," Gaybba said.

He said groups such as the Makhanda Circle of Unity were holding webinars to innovate and 'pivot' in light of Covid-19, examining alternatives with less reliance on big events such as the Festival, or institutions such as Rhodes. "There is only so much pivoting that can be done if one is on the breadline, though."

Fundraisers for local businesses were necessary, but not a long-term solution. Currently they have been focused on damage control and co-ordinating city-wide feeding programmes.

And the artists...

In theory, some artists should be able to benefit from the R150m Artists Relief Fund. At the end of March, the Department of Sport, Arts and



Culture explained how the R150m Artists Relief Fund would be allocated. Among other conditions was that only those with fixed-term contracts were eligible, leaving freelancers high and dry. The deadline for proposals for relief was 4 May 2020.

National Arts Festival Artistic Director Rucera Seethal
HOW THE VIRTUAL FESTIVAL WILL WORK

Listen to the National Arts Festival team's first webinar to explain how the virtual edition will work here, or read this summary. The Village Green will become the 'Virtual Green' and Cathedral Market vendors will be encouraged to join it, with details to be announced soon, says Polkey.

The "Ideas forum", is a space for artists to propose solutions to artistic challenges, provide support for equipment/space, and submit proposals for digital work. [Find it here.](#)

90% of ticket proceeds will go to artists themselves, and all artists wanting to participate in the vFringe can visit the Artist Zone on the National Arts Festival website.



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Restaurants battle to stay afloat as student town turns ghost town

By NASI HAKO

The streets of Makhanda, usually alive with Rhodes students, became especially quiet at the start of the national lockdown on 26 March as students in residences returned home. The university campus remained closed as the country moved down to lockdown level 4 and as local restaurants open for deliveries and take-aways, they are feeling keenly the students' continued absence.

On 1 May, South Africa entered level 4 of the national lockdown, allowing fast-food restaurants and other dining establishments to open for deliveries and take-aways, among other liberties. After five weeks of the stringent level 5 regulations, many South Africans were excited at the prospect of ordering food from their favourite local restaurants. But the economic impact of the lockdown means many local restaurant owners are having to carefully consider whether it's worth their while.

The combination of the Covid-19 emergency laws prohibiting dining in and the sale of alcohol, as well as the absence of their substantial student clientele, are among the problems that local restaurant managers have to tackle.

One of the businesses that has remained closed under level 4 is the local Mugg & Bean at Pepper Grove Mall. Franchise owner Craig Foord said it would not have made financial sense for the establishment to re-open. Much like other restaurants, opening for business would create an obligation to pay overhead expenses that owners aren't sure they can meet, considering the absence of their student regulars.

"It's been a very tough time... there are people finding themselves in positions that they have never been in before," said Foord.

Unfortunately, a lot of food also had to be discarded or given away. This is because Mugg & Bean has stringent food requirements. Much of their stock has short life



The New Street entertainment precinct, usually abuzz with students, completely empty on day one of the national lockdown, Friday 27 March. The future of food outlets remains uncertain, even as the lockdown levels lift. Photo: Sue MacLennan

cycles. Baked goods, for example, have a 24-hour shelf-life.

After the initial spike, the few food establishments that have opened their doors have reported a gradual decline in demand. The majority of owners have had to negotiate with their suppliers, creditors, and landlords in order to stay afloat.

Manager of Major Fraser's Craft Bar and Eatery, Mongezi Plank, says because lockdown laws forbid the sale of alcohol, approximately 30 litres of craft beer will have to be discarded due to its short shelf life.

"Craft beer and other alcoholic beverages make up about 60% of our monthly turnover," Plank said. He estimates the establishment has achieved only 8% of its usual turnover and this is putting strain on their ability to pay their overheads.

Dudu Nyakotyo, who manages The Rat and Parrot, said they've had to discard a large

quantity of alcoholic beverages, baked goods and food products.

Sikhokhele Blom, who manages several fast-food franchises, has called the new circumstances "a completely different ball game". The Debonair's Pizza Manager said he has been able to open only two out of seven franchises.

The majority of restaurant employees are now at the mercy of the unemployment insurance fund (UIF) and the Covid-19 relief fund for income. Many are grateful to be earning a percentage of their salaries working in the kitchens or doing deliveries.

Though each of the managers face unique difficulties, they all agree that their future is dependent on what the government decides about lockdown restrictions.

Meanwhile, they ask the public for their support and patience.

Consolidation in the second 50 years: 1920 to 1970

By STEVEN LANG

Part Two of this series on the history of Grocott's Mail begins in 1920, a year of momentous changes at the newspaper and in its home city, Grahamstown. The world was recovering from the first Great War and the Spanish Flu pandemic – both of which claimed many hundreds of lives from the population of Grahamstown.

Under the steady hands of William Ellington Grocott and Richard Sherry, Grocott's Penny Mail had grown to eight pages during the War, but persistent paper shortages forced the newspaper to revert to its four-page format published three times per week.

Ironically, for a few years the Grocott's Penny Mail belied its name and cost twopence, probably due to the post war increase in printing prices. In the 1940s, the price reverted to one penny for a few years.

In 1920, Grocott's and Sherry incorporated its long-time rival, The Graham's Town Journal, or simply The Journal as it was known then, and changed its name to the Grocott's Daily Mail to reflect its new publishing schedule.

It remained a daily until 1965 when the schedule was changed to publishing on Tuesdays and Fridays.

As major changes were happening at the newspaper, Grahamstown residents were exploring ways of commemorating the centenary of the 1820 settlers. A special committee convened for this purpose created a 'living memorial' in the form of an immigration scheme to assist British immigrants to South Africa.

In an article published in Grocott's Penny Mail on 20 August 1919, the mayor of Grahamstown, CW Whiteside made no attempt to hide the racist motivations behind this scheme. He said that South Africa was threatened by the predominance of "the Native" over the white and "It is only by the introduction of fresh blood of the right kind that we can counteract this."

The Second South African War of 1899-1902 and the First World War 1914-1918 were high points for Grocott's journalism. It had offices in Johannesburg, East London and even London for a while as the newspaper was the prime source of information for Grahamstown and a significant part of



Southern Africa.

This preeminent position was lost as radio had taken over as the first source of breaking news by the time the Second World War broke out in 1939. Newspapers were still providing news, photographs, maps and analysis but radio occupied the prime news spot.

This appropriation was underscored during the war years, as newspapers carried adverts for 'all-wave' radios on their front pages.

In the 9 December 1941 edition, the biggest advert on the front page of Grocott's Daily Mail was for an Emerson all-wave radio with five valves, and AC and DC mains that could be purchased on terms for nine pounds.

This particular edition devoted more space to the Victoria Girls' prize giving than it did for its war entire war coverage.

The First World War appears to have had a greater effect on the psyche of Grocott's readers than the Second World War.

An article published in the Grocott's Daily Mail on 14 July 1949 noted that

"In the shop window of Messrs Grocott & Sherry are a number of relics and souvenirs of Delville Wood Battle which should be interesting to all observers. These include star shells, a Mills hand grenade, German gas mask and helmet, war histories and

maps and photos of South Africans visiting the famous cemetery."

Many years later, the importance of that significant battle was commemorated in the 23 July 1957 edition observing that "Hundreds of people thronged Church Square yesterday for the Delville Wood commemoration ceremony . . . [and]a service of remembrance for the heroes of Delville Wood was held later in the Cathedral."

The Royal Visit

A year before the British Royal Family voyaged to South Africa, Grocott's Daily Mail began publishing articles three or four times a week about the pending visit. The newspaper's intense coverage of the occasion illustrated how Grocott's Daily Mail preferentially represented white, English speaking Grahamstonians who harboured a certain loyalty to the British Monarchy.

Field Marshall Jan Smuts met the Royal Family when they arrived in Cape Town on board the HMS Vanguard on 17 February 1947. King George VI, Queen Elizabeth, Princess Elizabeth (20) and Princess Margaret (16) were taken directly to the 14-car White Train which was to be their home for two months.

Grocott and Sherry created a pamphlet for the Royal tour in honour of the King's visit. The 32-page pamphlet highlighted the history of Grahamstown: "... founded in the wilderness as a strategic frontier station and rising in the course of a century, a stately

city and one of the great educational centres of the Union" – Grocott's Daily Mail, 26 February 1947.

They said that Grahamstown went 'Royal crazy' when the Royal party arrived on the 28 February 1947. Grocott's Daily Mail reported that the town had organised a full day of events for the Royals culminating in a ride in their fleet of specially built Daimlers into Church Square. They waved to the thousands of people who had come to greet them as they made their way to the City Hall for speeches by the King and the Mayor, Mr HA Parry.

King George VI declared: "Your city has a distinguished place in the history of South Africa and I am pleased to hear that you are still proud to call yourselves 'the Settlers' city' in honour of those hardy men and women from the United Kingdom who brought civilisation to this part of South Africa in the early part of last century".

Finances

When William Ellington Grocott passed away in 1935, his two sons, Thomas Hugh and William Vincent took over the firm. They were educated at St Andrew's College and then went on to gain experience overseas in printing, stationery and books.

All members of the Grocott family, men and women, were involved in the life and improvement of Grahamstown. They were active in the church, sports clubs, the local Chamber of Commerce, as well as on boards of local banks and were always ready to lend a hand, monetarily and otherwise, to those in trouble.

In 1947 Rhodes University was struggling financially and did not have the funds to pay staff salaries. The University had debts of over 56 thousand pounds and there was a real possibility that it would have to be dissolved. How the Vice Chancellor, Dr Robert Alty, was able to ride out the storm is recounted in Dr R F Currey's book Rhodes University 1904-1970:

Answering a knock on the front door of the Lodge he found on his doorstep two brothers, Hugh and Vincent Grocott, sons of one of the men whose generosity 45 years earlier had enabled Rhodes to become more than an idea in the minds of a band of enthusiasts. On being shown in, Alty's visitors explained almost apologetically, that they had heard that Rhodes was in difficulties; and they went on to add that they would

like to be allowed to help in any effort which was going to help save the situation. With this brief preface they handed the Master, even more apologetically he felt, a cheque the like of which the Rhodes Accountant had not seen for some time.

We can safely say that Grocott's Mail saved Rhodes University – currently the biggest, and arguably the most important, entity in Grahamstown.

Water Supplies – some things don't seem to change

The provision of adequate water supplies seems to have been a problem all through Grahamstown's history. In an official meeting on 20 May 1926, held to consider the construction of Howison's Poort Dam, Mayor MG Godlonton, declared that Grahamstown was the finest residential and educational city in the country, but that "...our water supply is a standing disgrace". He moved that the meeting authorise the raising of a loan not exceeding £110,000 from the Cape Provincial Administration.

Construction was well under way by February 1930 with detailed reports appearing in the Grocott's Daily Mail. The reports listed progress including: the placing of a railway siding at Waainek; construction of the pipeline; the electric power line leading from a transformer station near Douglas Dam; reservoirs at Waainek; 3.7m of concrete already thrown into the 17.4 m thick base of the wall above-ground to the reservoir.

Grocott & Sherry Publishers produced a special souvenir pamphlet for the opening of this scheme by the Administrator of the Cape Province, the Hon. JH Conradie on 8 April 1931.

Water was still a big problem 25 years later when a drought in the Grahamstown area caused Grocott's to print the headline: City in for a Grim Time... The article presciently warned that the drought situation was likely to be repeated many times in the future. Water levels had dropped through consumption and evaporation and it was estimated that the town had enough for only another four months. Council instructed the City Engineer to 'throttle down' the supply into the pipelines.

The Settlers Monument

The influence of the 1820 Settlers has been a powerful force in the Grahamstown area ever since they arrived in Algoa Bay. For

many years, leading citizens had struggled to set up a monument to these intrepid families from Britain and so it was only in 1967 that the Monument's foundation stones were laid.

To witness the occasion on Settlers' Day, the editor of East London's Daily Dispatch, Donald Woods had come to Grahamstown and stayed with a colleague, Thelma Neville. He did however, have ulterior motives for his visit.

Woods told her that his newspaper wanted to take over Grocott's Mail and that this would be a 'piece of cake'. He said that the Dispatch was not interested in the paper but in the lucrative advertising revenue.

Woods explained that "They don't lift a finger to get adverts. They think they are doing the advertisers a favour."

He went to visit Messrs Grocott and Sherry to present them with his proposal. A short while later, a somewhat surprised Woods returned telling Neville that Hugh Grocott had turned down his offer with contempt. "He just about kicked me out of the shop."

In an attempt at retribution, the Dispatch started up its own newspaper in Grahamstown, the Albany Mercury. It made no difference, the paper soon folded.

Still a family business

Thomas Hugh Grocott never married but his brother William Vincent Grocott married Onah Amy Reed and they had two sons Arthur Kelvin Grocott and William Jeffrey Grocott.

Although Arthur trained to be a printer he did not enjoy being inside and so left the firm.

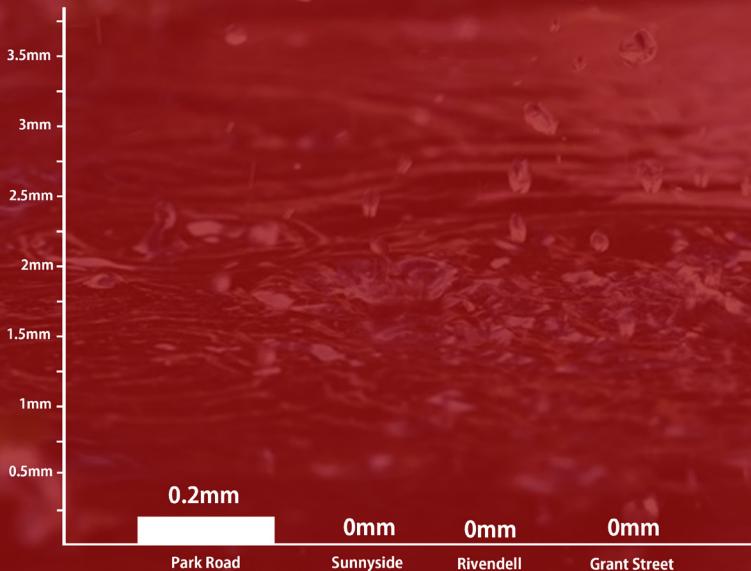
Jeffrey 'Jeff' Grocott joined the business in 1960 and spent three years in London completing his training before returning to the firm.

He became a partner in 1966 on the death of his father, leaving him to run the firm with Hugh Grocott until his uncle's death in 1980.

Next week

In the chapter covering the third fifty years of Grocott's Mail next week there are massive changes in editorial direction of the newspaper and the way it is published. The newspaper takes on a broader target audience and learns how to be viable on the internet.

RAINFALL IN MAKHANDA 14-20 MAY



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ESTATE LATE

In the estate of the late: Antoinette Twynham
Identity number: 640705 0184 08 5
Date of death: 25-8-2016
Marital status: Single
Last address: 5 Fir Tree Lane, Sunnyside, Grahamstown

Estate number: 002684/2016

All persons having claims against the above estate are hereby called upon to file their claims with the under-mentioned within 30 days from the date of the publication hereof.

Name and address of agent or executor:

L Keyter
PO Box 720
Grahamstown
6140
Tel: 046 6229401
E-mail: lkeyter@outlook.com

ESTATE LATE

In the estate of the late: Tembani Gilbert Klaas
Identity number: 600325 5384 08 1
Date of death: 3-9-2019
Marital status: Married out of community of property
Last address: 158 Ext. 4, Joza Location, Grahamstown

Estate number: 003569/2019

All persons having claims against the above estate are hereby called upon to file their claims with the under-mentioned within 30 days from the date of the publication hereof.

Name and address of agent or executor:

L Keyter
PO Box 720
Grahamstown
6140
Tel: 046 6229401
E-mail: lkeyter@outlook.com



ISIXHOSA SIYAVUTHA
with Dumisa Mpupha



A rock pigeon eyes the photographer as the first dawn rays light up its feathers. 'When the nation was placed on lockdown, I was forced to shift my focus from expansive landscapes to our garden,' says Tom Jeffery. 'I know that there are a lot of interesting things in urban gardens, but I haven't done that kind of photography for a while. I found, though, that the things I've learned over the time I've spent shooting landscapes also apply to much smaller spaces and subjects, and lockdown became a source of inspiration. I saw things I wouldn't have seen if I hadn't been looking with more attention, like a chameleon hunting and a katydid moulting. Photography made lockdown more bearable for me, and I hope the photos I shared brought some pleasure to the people who saw them. That said, I was ecstatic when Level 4 meant I could get out for sunrise again, and this shot of Grey Dam is one of the first that I took. Photo: Tom Jeffery See his Lockdown series and more at www.tomjeffery.co.za

Under the current circumstances we are celebrating Africa Day in a unique way, where we are still under lockdown regulations. Still Africa is worth celebrated. Mawethu le Afrika ingumabizw'asabele. Le Afrika ingu nxa zonke mbombo zone zomhlaba.

Uyimaz'ebhonxile Uyimaz'ebhonxileo
Uyindlezane nakwabo bakubukulayo
Ungumncedi ngemin'ezinzima
Ubomi abuphelelanga ngaphandle kwakho
Imfund'ayiphelelanga ngaphandle kolwazi lwakho
Zonk'izizwe zibonela kuwe
Kufundisw'iintsana ngawe
Kodwa wena ubumbedlengerha
Kuba bonk'uburhalarhume bolathwa kuwe
Noko nje ingazange ibe nguwe
Igolid'isilivere ne oli ikuwe
Ntonje ilungiswa kumazw'ongawaziyo
Gxeb'longawacelanga
Koko bakuhathile bekuxhokonkxa
Bezama konke abakho baxhokonxane.

Lusuku lokubhiyozela wena Afrika!
Wen'othwel'izizwe zehlabathi
Obantu bambala ufana nomhlaba
Ntw'ezibumnyama bukhanyayo
Apho kuphumla amawethu akowethu
Izizi'ezikude zikulindile ziyakulangazelela
Jerusalemandini yelizw'elaziwayo
Ezo zitalato zibutyebi nguwe

Sivul'amehlo thina bakho bomgquba
Sikukhankany'ukubaluleka kwakho
Wen'oxway'umhlaba wonke
Ngenduli neentaba zakho ezinomtsalane
Nezidenge mazize zithethe
Izithulu neemfama zitsho kulunge
Sithi camagu mhlekazi Afrika ngolu suku
Enkosi ngokwenzelela lula zonk'izizwe zehlabathi
Umsindleko nesithsaba zikufanele!

Handley wins all-rounder title

By CHESLEY DANIELS

The Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown saw the Grahamstown Cricket Board (GCB) cancel their annual prizegiving awards evening. Instead, they have announced their league and individual winners of the past season.

It is unclear whether the upcoming 2020/2021 cricket season will resume in September. Many players and administrators are eager to return to the cricket field and resume their competitive rivalry that goes back decades.

Reigning GCB 1st league champions Sidbury

are eager to make it three in a row. They've won the league twice in a row and the team is confident they can pull off a hat-trick.

It is also unclear if the CSA Rural Competitions will start, as Cricket South Africa still needs to take decisions regarding all forms of cricket in the country.

1. Most Runs

1st League - Brandon Handley 986
2nd League - Dave Duncan 796

2. Most Wickets

1st League Greg Evans 32
2nd League - Batsa Mohammed 36

3. Best all-rounder

1st League - Brandon Handley 986
2nd League - Ross Pittaway 1178

4. Highest Score

1st League - Warren Bowdler 189
2nd League - Ross Pittaway 201

League Winners - 1st League - Sidbury
2nd League - Manley Flats
Runners Up 1st League - Cuyerville
2nd League - Station Hill
Central - Albany 2nd League - Kenton
Bathurst 2nd League - Station Hill