

Ons Haantjie

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Nuusbrief van die Peter Henrich Henning Familiebond

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English Translation



**Aletta Petronella (Ronél) Henning
owner of the Ladybird International
Art Academy at Ladybrand**

“Ladybird” Ronél Henning

b7.c8.d8.e1.f2.g1. Aletta Petronella Henning *16-12-1959, or Ronél Henning as she is known, grew up in Aliwal North as the oldest child of Olivier (Boet) Henning and his wife Letitia of the farm Oosterlig. Five generations of her ancestors lived in the Aliwal North district from 1841 – long before the town was proclaimed.

Since she was a small girl, she had a huge love for music and it followed, therefore, automatically that she would study music after matric. It was not long thereafter that she landed up at the well-known Drakensberg Boys Choir as accompanist. Here she worked for twelve years under the leadership of the well-known choir-master and music director Bunny Ashley-Botha.

When the roads of Ronél and the Drakensberg Boys Choir separated, she decided that she would like to begin a music school. Due to the fact that she was a farm child, with a love for the “platteland”, she

did not like the idea of moving to one of the big cities. She realised that the location of this music school would be very important to make it a viable business. She considered several rural towns and at the end decided that Ladybrand would be the best location.

The location of Ladybrand as a border town, with the influence of diplomatic personnel to Lesotho and several nationalities were decisive.

If you turn left shortly on the other side of the few shops in Ladybrand in the direction of the ridge with the sandstone rocks, avoid a few potholes, you would soon see the “Ladybird International Art Academy” signpost on the righthand side of the road, with the former Freemasons lodge next to it. Ronél bought the lodge in 2003 and renovated it into a cosy theatre. It is decorated in the lovely clay colour of sandstone with a soft blue-grey finish.

“Ladybird” is an popular international symbol for beauty and pleasure. Ronél says that “ladies” have always been part of her life. In the fourteen years that the Ladybird Academy has been in existence, talented people from 27 cultures received training there: Pakistani’s, Phillipenes, Ruandese, Ugandies, Americans, Britts, Russians, Hungarians and several others. There were



Michael Apanius busy directing one of the ensembles

doctors, diplomats, missionaries, humanitarian workers and several other professions.

With a smile Ronél tells about Lieve, nursing sister and viola player from Belgium who wanted to give training for fiddlers. She joined Ladybird as head of the fiddlers. Her husband, Bart, a gynaecologist in Lesotho, who also play the cello, joined the ensemble.



A Group students busy practicing for a Christmas concert

People just arrive at Ladybird and want to get involved. A man from Dakar, Senegal emailed Ronél: “My wife accepted a post in Lesotho. I play the viola. Can I give classes at your Academy?” Today he trains the junior fiddlers and the ensembles. The present violin and



Ronél on the piano, making music with a few students

block flute teacher, Ilona Knot, is a Dutch nursing sister who came to Lesotho as the wife of a missionary.

The local pharmacist, whom the children call Mr Ribbent, do the introductory program with the very young children, the Little Ladybugs. He only works three days a week in his pharmacy. He has a Licenciate in Drama and Flute and recently passed his Grade-8

singing exam. He is a brilliant teacher. It is encouragable for the kids to see that it is not only old ladies and women who teach music.

Ladybird Academy is not only the training place for clasical musical students. It also became the launch pad for rock music. In 2013 Ronél phoned the University of the Free State looking for a guitar teacher. They recommend Jerome Vermaak. “He is lovely! A Rocker with a look”, she laughs. Therefore, they no longer only do clasicl guitar, they rock until the sandstone rocks answer.

Students who have completed their studies often come and work with Ronél for some time, before they take up a job elsewhere, like Werner Stander, who is now doing his doctorate degree in Birmingham, or Leslie Jennings, manager of the Free State Youth Orchestra.



Art students busy decorating a wall

Visual Art and Speach and Drama also do not stay behind. The young dramatist, Lize Bosman, the blond miss who wrote “Dinosaurus Stories”, drive once every week, with her Dachshund, from Bloemfontein to Ladybrand.

Arts teacher, Belinda Pike draws and paints with her students in the spacious workshop in

the back garden, where the golden Free State light stream through huge glass windows.

In the courtyard of the Academy are lovely mosaic pictures made by the art students. Their first art teacher was the international known ceramist Philippa Du Toit and later the artist and poet, Thandi Sliepen from Netherlands.



Blowing Blue with Joane Beukes during one of the Wednesday concerts. Below: Christmas concert with three clowns



Ronél is of the opinion that theory and structure is not inevitably necessary to transfer knowledge of music. “It can sometimes strain feeling and creative freedom. Children are sometimes over-managed in schools and pushed to achieve. At Ladybird we try not to focus on competition, but rather on enjoyment”. Yet they do not lose standards. The good results they receive from external examiners speak for themselves.

Every Wednesday afternoon between 17:00 hours and 17:30 the students hold a concert in the theatre. The town’s inhabitants can come and listen. This make the children at home on the stage and the town’s people more aware of art.

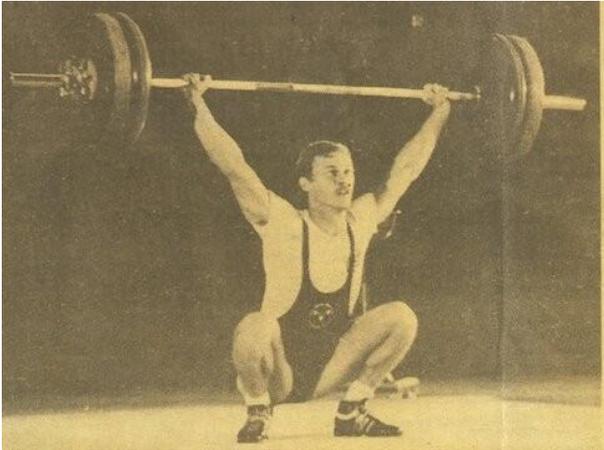
Ronél would like to extend the curriculum soon with dance – in all probability Latino, with a little bit of African contemporary. “Nice! Something new!” At present the Ladybird Academy have nine staff members.

Since 2005 Ronél also plays the organ in the Dutch Reformed Church in Ladybrand. She smiles while she says: “The Lord gave me a dream and He makes sure that my dreams are coming true – not only my school girl dream of working at the Drakensberg Boys Choir, but also my other dreams. It comes true in the way He wants. Do you remember the piece in Isaiah which refers to childless people who will have many children? It is like that in my case. All the students are like children in my home.

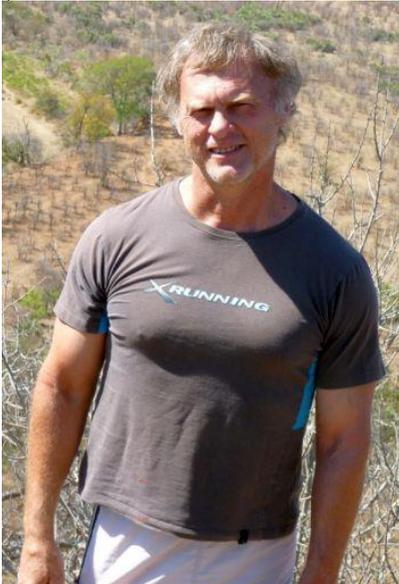
They love it here. During summer we sit in the garden and in winter in front of the fire place. Sometimes they enjoy it so much that I have to sweep them out at the front door.

My mother, Letitia do our books and talks to the parents waiting for their children at the front desk. The students love her. They call her, ‘Ôma’ “

Dr Koos Henning Masters Champion Weightlifter



Jacobus Adriaan Gerhardus (Koos) Henning in his young days when he won all weightlifting titles in South Africa



Dr Koos Henning today

We reported in Newsletter 124 of November 2015 on the weightlifting achievements of b6.c4.d1.e5.f5.g6.h3. Dr Jacobus Adriaan Gerhardus (Koos) Henning *13 May 1957 of Modimole/ Nylstroom. These days, due to his age, Koos compete in the masters class championships. Koos is regarded as one of the best, if not the best, weightlifter that South Africa has produced.

During August 2017 Koos participated in the International Masters Championships held in Sweden. As usual, the East Block countries dominated the competition which was very competitive. This year Koos won the fourth place in his weight category against opponents of whom the majority were suspected of using steroids. The competition was very stiff, with small margins between competitors. Under the circumstances Koos is satisfied with his fourth place.

Next year the world championships will be held in Barcelona, Spain, and if he hold good health, he will work hard to return to South Africa with a medal, not only for the country, but also for the Henning family!

Four Days Marches, Nijmegen and the Hennings

We reported several times over the past few years on emeritus Reverend Bjarne Fowels (77) of Hjelmeland, Norway who participated in the annual world famous Four Days Marches at Nijmegen, Netherlands. Initially he participated on his own. Later his son, Brynjar, joined him and in 2016 his grandson, Håkon, joined them



Rev Bjarne Fowels (front row on the right) marching and singing with the Norwegian platoon through the streets of Nijmegen during the 2010 marches



Participants are flooded with Gladiola flowers on the fourth day as can clearly be seen in the rucksacks of these soldiers

Although Bjarne is a Norwegian citizen, he sees South Africa as his second homeland. His great grandmother was a Henning (b7.c8.d1. Martha Johanna Elizabeth Henning, *26-8-1857, married Zurich). His grandmother (a daughter of Martha) was initially married to a Fowels and they lived in East London. Thereafter she married Michael Olaus Landmark, a Norwegian skipper. When Landmark returned to Norway, she and her two children from her first marriage joined him. Bjarne is very proud of his South African and Henning descent.

After his theological studies he served for several years as a chaplain of the Norwegian Seaman's Church in Rotterdam, London and Durban. He was one of the United Nations peace monitors when Namibia became independent. He also served as a military chaplain for military

units in Norway and Norwegian military contingents elsewhere in the world. In spite of this broad experience, he sees his stint in Durban as the highlight of his life. He and his wife got married during this time and all his children were born in Durban.

Every year an international distance march over four days is held in Nijmegen, Netherlands. Participants from all over the world participate in this march. This year it was held for the 101st time. Every day a distance of approximately 30, 40 or 50 kilometres must be walked – therefore a total of 126, 161 or 199 kilometres for the four days. Between 48 000 and 50 000 participants (men, women, military and civilians) from more than 60 countries participate, making it the biggest event of its kind in the world.



It is clear where Rev Bjarne's loyalty lies. On his rucksack he displays a Norwegian and South African flag and on the bottom of the rucksack a Henning pennant

Walkers come from all spheres of the population and is driven by the desire to perform, meet other people and participate in a spirit of friendship, cheerfulness, march music, colourful flags, and a festive atmosphere. Walkers are carried by the endless applause, hospitality and enthusiasm of the citizens of Nijmegen, who stand in their hundreds of thousands along the streets. Lifelong friendships are forged.

Military participants must carry a rucksack weighing 10 kg, as well as their own water. They can participate individually or as a platoon. Civilians do not have to carry anything. Due to the excessive heat which was experienced during July 2017, several participants had to undergo medical treatment. At the end of the fourth day participants march, like the former Romans, through the triumphal arch where they are flooded with gladiola flowers on the Via Gladiola, traditionally the symbol of power and victory, which go back to the times of the Romans when gladiators battled against each other with swords to the delight of thousands of spectators.

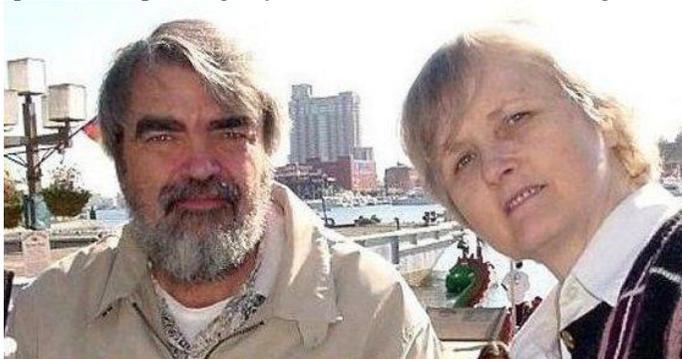
Due to Rev Bjarne's age - he is after all 77 years old – he participated this year as a civilian and no longer as a soldier. Take a look

at the photograph with his rucksack next to him, which proudly displays the Norwegian and South African flags, as well as a Henning pennant. This proves unquestionably how proud he is of his Henning heritage. The other two photographs were taken during the 2010 march, when Bjarne participated as a soldier.

Bjarne mentions that the Nijmegen march was the fourth international marathon in which he participated this year, after Diekirch in Luxemburg, Viborg in Denmark and Castlebar in Ireland. The next one will be soon in Lithuania. Next year, 2018, he will be awarded the Nijmegen ten year medal, also called the Gold Veterans Medal.

Monster Storm in USA also hit the Hennings

b1.c6.d3.e11.f3.g1. Cornelius Belthaser (Neels) Henning *9-4-1944 and his wife Bernice are members of the family league. They live in Tampa, Florida, United States of America. During the first week of September all news bulletins on radio and TV reported on the monster tornado storm which was on its way to Florida, and more specific Tampa, allegedly the most severe storm in living memory.



Cornelius Belthaser (Neels) Henning and his wife Bernice of Tampa, Florida, USA who had to flee from the tornado, Irma during the first week of September 2017

Neels informed us that they, together with more than six million people, had to flee out of Florida. They went to take shelter with their son and his family in North Carolina. They were very worried about what is going to happen with their home and other belongings.

They could not immediately return home after the storm moved through and the wind dropped, because all fuel stations along the road went out of stock due to six million people needing fuel.

Later Neels reported that they were at home. They were pleasantly surprised that their power was still on and that there was no serious damage. A tree standing on the plot of one of their neighbours was uprooted and landed in their plot. Only one small branch fell on their roof, without any damage.

Everywhere, in the garden, were a lot of leaves and branches which were ripped of trees. They had to collect everything and move it to the pavement where the municipality collected everything free of charge.

In the end everything went well and they enjoyed their few days stay at Reyco and family in North Carolina. It could have been much worse, so they have much to be thankful.

Deaths

b9.c1.d2.e1.f5.g3. Pieter Hendrik Henning * 13-11-1932 died on April 17th 2017 at the age of 84 years and five months. Pieter was born in Alberton, where he grew up and went to school. After school he did his apprenticeship as a diesel mechanic in Boksburg. After he qualified, he also found a job here.

On March 15th 1953 he married Johanna Francina Steyn. After a good marriage of 32 years Pieter, his wife and his grandson, were in a serious car accident where both his wife and grandson died. He was seriously injured and was admitted to hospital with



b9.c1.d2.e1.f5.g3 Pieter Hendrik Henning *13-11-1932 died on 17 April 2017

a broken hip. A hip replacement was done, but due to serious negligence the operation was done on the wrong hip. The result of this was that Pieter had to use crutches the rest of his life and he was permanently in pain.

Pieter had a second chance for a good marriage, when he and the widow Magdalena Susanna (Lenie) Botha got married on 26 April 1986. He lived with Lenie in her home in Hercules, Pretoria. When they became older they moved to the Eden Akasie Retirement Resort in Theresa Park. When Pieter died, they were married for 31 years. His wife and all his children and step children loved him sincerely.

In the previous newsletter we reported on the 95th birthday of aunt Piemp Henning (Maria Petronella Henning (born Alers) *25-5-1922 and published photos of her, all her sisters in law and cousins who surprised her with a visit on her birthday at the old-age home in Fochville on 22 May 2017. Within three months three members of this family, including aunt Piemp herself, died.



Magdalena Jacomina Maria (Lena) Henning (born Havenga) *1-3-1938 wife of the late Andries Gerhardus Henning died on 25 June 2017

Aunt Piemp's sister in law, Magdalena Jacomina Maria (Lena) Henning (born Havenga), wife of the deceased b9.c3.d3.e3.f2.g9. Andries Gerhardus Henning *28-8-1933, died on 25 June 2017 in the Clinton Intensive Care Unit in Alberton.

Lena was born in Bronkhorstspuit. She and her husband, Andries (his nickname was Ysterman because he was so strong) had seven daughters. As a family they lived in Alberton. All her life Lena was a housewife and mother for seven children. Her hobbies were needlework and knitting. Andries and Lena went overseas for the first time in 2000 when they visited their daughter, Hanneljie, in Australia. They enjoyed it very much. After the



Maria Petronella (aunt Piemp) Henning (born Alers) *25-5-1922, wife of the late Hendrik Jacobus Henning *3-11-1924 died on 23 August 2017 in the age of 95 years

death of Andries Lena again visited Hanneltjie in 2004. Fortunately Hanneltjie could make it in time to visit her mother when she was in her dying hours.

Lena's youngest daughter, Magda, remembers that they, as a family, sang together in the vehicle, when they were on their way to their farm in the Cullinan district. On New Year's eve the family also got together and everybody made music. Father Andries played the guitar, mother Lena or Magda herself played the organ. To Lena, Andries was her "maatjie" and she was his "poppy".

The son-in-Law of Lena, Johan Coetzee, husband of Lena's oldest daughter, the former b9.c3.d3.e3.f2.g9.h1. Elizabeth Maria Coetzee (born Henning) died on 17 July 2017 at Alberton.

Johan was an electrical engineer at Alberton. He lost his wife, Elizabeth Maria, twenty one years ago in a car accident. There-after he contracted TB but survived. Ten years ago he was again in a serious car accident. He was six weeks in hospital and again survived.

Maria Petronella (aunt Piemp) Henning (born Alers) *25-5-1922, wife of the late b9.c3.d3.e3.f2.g5. Hendrik Jacobus Henning *3-11-1924 died on 23 August 2017 in th old age home at Fochville. Aunt Piemp and her husband had seven children, three sons and four daughters. She was buried on Saturday 2 September 2017 on their family farm, Hardekoolbult, in the Northam district.

We also received notice of the death of b5.c4.d4.e2.f4.g3. Janetta Gesina Johanna Richards (born Henning) *Ohrigstad 16-9-1930 on 17 August 2017. She was the spouse of Petrus Hendrik De Bruyn Richards. Unfortunately we could not obtain further particulars or a photograph. We only know that she and her husband got married on 20 November 1948 at Nelspruit and had four children, three sons and a daughter.

Marriages



Marriage photograph of Charles Meyers Henning and Chantelle Griffiths on 6-5-2017. Back row: Marie Henning (born Lubbe), mother of the groom, Willem Jacobus Henning, brother of the groom; Owen Samuel Ackermann, brother-in-law. Middle: Leamarie Ackermann (born Henning) sister; the bridegroom, Charles Meyers Henning and his father, Willem Jacobus Henning. In front, Chantelle Henning (born Griffiths)

b7.c5.d1.e4.f4.g1.h1. Charles Meyers Henning *8-3-1981 got married to Chantelle Griffiths of Porterville on 6 May 2017. Charles is the son of Willem Jacobus Henning *19-9-1952 and his wife Maria Magdalena (born Lubbe). Charles is working on a horse farm in Stellenbosch, while Chantelle serve at the Department of Correctional Services in Porterville. They plan to live in Porterville. Charles' parents are pensioners and live on a farm in Glentana.

Elandkraal now in a Nature Reserve

In 2003 recommendations were made that the two national parks, Mountain Zebra National Park outside Cradock and the Camdeboo National Park outside Graaff Reinet be linked in a huge corridor which stretches over the Snow Mountain range, in the North, up to Pearston, in the South. Only in 2012 funds were obtained and the Wilderness Foundation was appointed as a partner to assist SAN Parks to implement the first stage of the project.

The farm, Elandskraal, where the Henning progenitor, Pieter Hendrik Henning, started farming in 1786 and where his Henning descendants farmed until the early 1940's, can be found inside this area.

Such a huge nature reserve have many advantages for farm owners whose farms fall inside this area. Not only plants and wild animals are protected, but also water catchment areas. It also guards against the threatening exploitation of shale gas and accompanying mining activities. The latter probably led to the unexpected success with the first stage where 25 000 hectares land received protection status. By February 2014 a total of 66 farmers who owned together 269 000 hectares land applied for protection.

There are three levels of participation. The first is where farmers get access to information on the best practices on land management. The second level is protective environment status which means that farmers could continue with their farming activities as usual, but that they accept that they have to reduce the use of land. The third stage is to manage the area as a contracted national park, where at least three property owners must undertake to transfer their land.

Hopefully these embroilments would give Hennings, who have not yet visited the farm Elandskraal, the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of our progenitor and also see this beautiful part of our country. Especially after early summer rains it is a pleasure garden with game grazing in the green hills and different types of birds hovering over the land.

Henning gathering Wilderness May 2017

(Contribution by b6.c1.d3.e5.f3.g4.h6. Pieter Hendrik (Piet) Henning of Strand)



Cousins – all grand children of b6.c1.d3.e5.f3. Pieter Hendrik Henning *20-9-1886 – who attended the reunion at Wilderness. F.l.t.r.: Piet Henning (S/o Hendrik); Hanneltjie Janse van Rensburg (D/o Willem, known as Booysen); Gesina Spangenberg (D/o Hendrik); Marita van Dijk (D/o Paul); Mieke Henning (D/o Hendrik); Insertion: Paula van den Heever (D/o Paul); Pieter Henning (S/o Pieter); Isabel Botha (D/o Jopie); Helena Thirion (D/o Nelie); Maarten Henning (S/o Maarten); Marina Botha (D/o Maarten); Cecil Henning (S/o Pieter). Other photos were taken where the spouses and children were added, but due to a lack of space we unfortunately cannot publish them

Two cousins who are both descendants of the Hennings who moved to Argentina in 1905, Hanneltjie Janse van Rensburg (daughter of Willem Henning) and Gesina Spangenberg (daughter of Hendrik Henning), visited each other during 2015 in Swakopmund, Namibia, where Gesina and her husband Thys live. They came to the conclusion that it is tragic that all their cousins do not see each other more often. They decided to organize a gathering of all the grand children of Pieter Hendrik Henning (b6.c1.d3.e5.f3.) who moved as a young boy with his parents to

Argentina in 1905. He is also the author of the book: “n Boer in Argentinië” (A Boer in Argentina). The gathering was arranged to take place at the end of April 2017 at the home of Marita, daughter of Paul Henning, and Gerrit van Dijk in Wilderness. Marita, therefore, also became one of the organisers. Some of the attendants stayed over with Marita, while the rest camped or stayed in chalets at “Eb and Flow”.

The first encounter was a nice how-do-you-do, with emotions of happiness, friendliness. It was interesting to see how quickly people who did not know each other well, became friends and talked as if they knew each other for years. The common factor was our parents who had such an interesting history, because they were immigrants, but also Afrikaans-speaking. Most of them could dance the tango and had even a few Argentinian habits. They were an interesting bunch with lots of stories to tell.

Most of the time there were delicious food. Hanneltjie made sure that everything in the food department ran smoothly. There were fires for a normal barbeque as well as an Argentinian Asado braai. Some people ate and chatted inside, while others did their thing outside. Everyone had his or her stories and jokes. Some of the people were

master story-tellers. If something would happen and they lose their jobs, they could easily become comedians or authors.

Piet writes: "I experienced this meeting as very special, because I do not have the time or opportunity to travel around the country more often to visit family. Life is busy and before you know, another year has passed. After this meeting I can say that many of my cousins whom I did not really knew, are now my friends. I am sure everybody experienced it that way."



Everywhere groups were sitting chatting and eating. This group were busy with an Argentinian Asado lamb barbecue

Some of our children and grandchildren also attended. Next time we will endeavour to get even more of them to attend. Many could not attend, for a variety of reasons. It is not possible to arrange such a gathering to suit everyone. In this huge family

we do not know each other well enough and meetings of this kind are the ideal place to get to know each other better. We plan another gathering in two years time – more central and most probably in Burgersdorp or Aliwal North.

One story which stood out for me was the story of our grandfather, Pieter Henning and grandmother, Malie. He was a wealthy farmer in Argentina with two farms and 40 000 wool sheep. In 1937 they left everything behind to return to South Africa, because they could not allow their descendants to become Roman Catholic. This was the requirement to attend school and to study in Argentina. In South Africa they became poor and he even had to manufacture shoes to survive. All those who attended our gathering can be thankful for their sacrifices, because most of the Afrikaners who still live in Argentina today are poor and struggle to survive.

The weekend was too short. We still miss the cousins who could not attend. We hope you will be able to make the next gathering.

Money Matters

Over many years the family league survived on donations from well meaning Hennings. However, over the past two years we experienced a clear decrease in the number and amount of donations and we had to begin using some of our reserves, which was saved over the past 33 years.

Apart from the six members who conscientiously contribute every month by means of a direct debit order, only three other members made donations over the past three months to the family league, namely:

- J G (Gerhard) Henning and his wife Dorethea of Mmabatho — R500.00
- Herbert and Margita Henning of Munich, Germany — R2 000.00. They are good friends of the family league
- Mrs J J B (Johanna) Henning, widow of the former S G (Fanie) Henning of Klerksdorp — R100.00

The six members who contribute monthly are:

- J A (Jan) Henning and his wife Cornelia of Montanapark
- J H (Jan) Henning and his wife Nicolina of Glenstantia
- P H (Piet) Henning and his wife Anna of Durbanville
- R T (Runa) van Staaten (born Henning) and her husband Sauer of Centurion
- Past Antonie Henning and his wife Nellie of Wonderboom South, Pretoria
- P J S (Pieter) Henning of Ramsgate

We appeal again to all Hennings to make, from time to time, a donation to the family league. You decide yourself how much you can afford. All donations will be appreciated – if it is R30.00 or R1000.00

The particulars of the bank account of the family league are as follows: FNB Villiersdorp (Branch 200 712), Account name – Henning Family League; Account no – 6265 7601 483. Please use your name and /or your member number as reference

Exhibition items for our Museum



Joseph (Joe) Renney, son of b6.c3.d3.e4.f5.g2. Catharina Maria Renney (born Henning) *14 December 1915 recently donated an interesting trophy which his grandfather, Petrus Andries Henning *27-12-1885 won for tug-of-war in 1912 to the Henning Family League to exhibit in the Henning Museum.

b6.c3.d3.e4.f5. Petrus Andries Henning was a policeman and the trophy was donated by the Caledonian Society of Pretoria. The name of Petrus Henning and particulars of the award are engraved on the bottom of the trophy.

With the future of our museum unsure, we will wait for decisions to be made about the future of the museum, before we exhibit this trophy