

Ons Haantjie

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Nuusbrief van die Peter Henrich Henning Familiebond

Theewaterskloof Landgoed
Villiersdorp

Posbus 121
6848 Villiersdorp

Sel: 082 355 3801

www.henning.org

E-pos: olie4@henning.org

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English Translation

Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria



Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has come to light that the Voortrekker Monument is in great trouble because its main source of income – foreign tourists – has dried up due to the pandemic. Afrikaner monuments and cultural sites do not receive any financial support from the current government and the Heritage Foundation (which looks after all Afrikaner cultural goods –

including the Voortrekker monument) must find the funds to survive.

One of the inventive ways that the Heritage Foundation devised to raise funds was to symbolically sell the entire Voortrekker Monument, piece by piece.

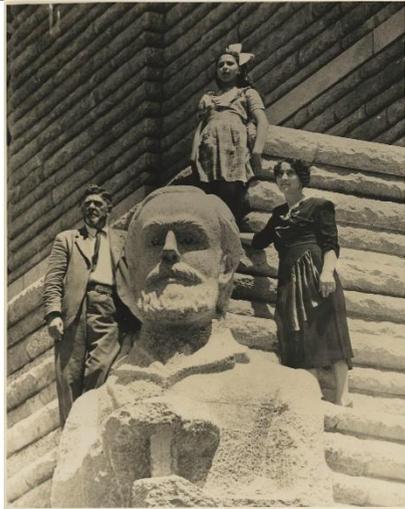
Where the Henning Family League has in the past become involved in several similar projects, including: the erection of a Concentration Camp memorial at the War Museum of the Boer Republics; the erection of a memorial wall of Burgers killed during the Anglo Boer War at the War Museum; the centenary celebrations of the Women's Monument; the preservation of the Pediment of the Old Council Chamber of the Free State Republic; and the relocation of the Andries Pretorius memorial at Graaff-Reinet, the management of the family league once again decided that we should try to make our contribution here as well.

The Henning Family League is an enrolled member of the Heritage Foundation, because the history of our family is woven into the history of the Afrikaner people. When we distributed the Ons Haantjie newsletter no. 146 / May 2021, we appealed to

In ou Baltiese dialek was Hen = Haan (manlik), Henne =Hen (vroulik). Henning = Haantjie



Aerial photograph of the rally of hundreds of thousands of people who attended the inauguration of the monument in December 1949, after the laying of the corner stone in December 1938



Paulus Petrus Henning *28-1-1899, the first Superintendent of the Monument from 1949 until 1956, with his wife, Anna Maria (born van Wyk) and their daughter, Anna Maria at one of the corner statues of the monument

all Hennings who receive the Newsletter to support us in this campaign. The Family League will contribute R1 000.00 from its own funds.

Nine members opened their wallets and we eventually raised R12 000.00, including the family league's R1000.00. The following members made contributions (in genealogical number order:

a2.b1.c6.d14.e2.f4. Mrs M M Henning (born Mackinnon)

a2.b5.c1.d3.e1.f7.g4.h1. Mrs M Van der Westhuizen (born Henning)

a2.b6.c4.d1.e5.f10.g6.h2. Mrs M M Page (born Henning)

a2.b7.c1.d3.e5.f1.g4.h3. Mr G H F Henning

a2.b7.c2.d3.e4.f3.g2. Mr M C Henning

a2.b7.c8.d5.e7.f3. Mrs L Henning (born De Kock)

a2.b7.c8.d8.e3.f4. Brig-Genl O J Henning

a2.b7.c8.d8.e3.f5. Mrs H C Henning (born Kleynhans) and her daughter Miss C N Henning

a2.b9.c3.d3.e3.f4.g2.h2. Dr N G C Henning

Buy your piece of Voortrekker monument

By 'buying' a part of the Monument, the 'buyer' receives a certificate indicating which part of the Monument they 'bought'. These names are then recorded in the Voortrekker Monument's archive for posterity as those who made a difference during this serious crisis by contributing financially. They then become an honorary co-owner of the Monument. The Monument consists of a large number of architecturally important elements and works of art such as the corner figures, the marble-frieze panels, granite stones, the windows, the wagon fortification (laager) and so on. Prices range from R20 per step to R100 000 for one of the marble frieze panels.

The historical frieze in the Voortrekker Monument is an intrinsic part of the design, which depicts the history of the Trek in a universal way. The major

incidents of the Great Trek are recounted from the time the Trekkers left the Cape Colony, until the Republic was recognized by the signing of the Sand River Convention in 1852. The Trekkers' way of life, working methods, battles, political activities - in short, the whole composition of their lives - are depicted in pictures. The frieze starts at the front door giving access to the Hall of Heroes and unfolds from left to right. In total, there are 27 separate panels making up one single frieze. This marble frieze is the longest existing frieze in the world.

Although each of the 27 panels of the historic frieze can be purchased by one buyer, the staff managing the project realized that there will not be many people who will be able to afford an entire panel and therefore have a value on each figure or item placed on each panel, which can then be purchased by smaller donors (buyers).

After careful consideration it was decided that the Henning Family League could afford five figures on panel 5. Panel 5 depicts the Battle of Vegkop, 1836. Hennie Potgieter was the sculptor of this panel.



The five figures the Family League “bought”, which will be described further on

Andries Hendrik Potgieter left the Cape Colony at the end of December 1835 and Sarel Cilliers and his company later joined him.

What is interesting is that Potgieter lived on the farm Commando Drift in the Tarka. The first owner of Commando Drift was the Henning progenitor, Pieter Hendrik Henning to whom the farm was granted on 25-9-1789.

In total, the group consisted of 158 families. The Ndebeles (also called Matebeles), a splinter group of the Zulus, waged a reign of terror against the local population in the interior during this time. The Battle of Vegkop took place near the present Heilbron in October 1836, when the Voortrekkers were attacked by nearly 6,000 Ndebele warriors from Chief Mzilikazi (Silkaats).

Even the women and children had to help load front loaders and cast bullets. The attack was repulsed, but the Ndebeles plundered all the Voortrekkers' cattle and the Voortrekkers were stranded. The Barolong sent them draught oxen and food so that they could retreat to Thaba Nchu.

Where the Hennings fit into this picture

The reason why we decided on figures on panel 5 is found in the following:

a2.b5.c2. Pieter Hendrik Henning * 8-9-1804 and his first wife, Elizabeth Catharina (Elsa) Booysen (his niece) farmed on their farm, De Put in the Brakrivier ward, Somerset district, by 1835. This farm lies in line between Middelburg, Cape and Hofmeyer. Elsa was killed on November 13, 1835, during the devastating Sixth Xhosa War - shortly after the birth of their fifth child.

She was the very first Henning to die violently during a war in South Africa.

For a man on such a remote farm to care for five small children, the youngest of whom was a baby who was not even a month old, was almost impossible. He therefore re-married early in 1836 and he, his new wife, Aletta Catharina Martha (born De Bruyn) and five children, can be traced from here, through the Free State, on the tracks of the Andries Hendrik Potgieter company to Potchefstroom, where he and his family went to live on the farm Matjesspruit. He died at the age of 91 years and eleven months. Several descendants of this family are on the e-mail distribution list to receive the Haantjie newsletter.

Unfortunately we could not find any supporting evidence that Pieter Hendrik participated in the Battle of Vegkop, but the fact that we have supporting evidence that he and his family were always in the vicinity of the Potgieter trek through the Free State, all the way to Potchefstroom, one certainly concludes that Pieter Henning and his family could have been within the Boer laager at Vegkop.

So we decided on Panel 5 - Battle of Vegkop and "bought" the following figures:

Figure 1. Voortrekkerman with rifle - R2 500.00

Figure 3. Wounded man - R2 500.00

Figure 4. Voortrekker woman - R2 500.00

Figure 11. Voortrekker woman - R2 500.00

Figure 13. Voortrekkerman aiming with his rifle - R2 000.00

It should be remembered that several of the other figures have already been sold and the cost of figures varies. We had to make a contribution that adds to exactly R12 000.00.

October 1836: Events around Vegkop

The Battle of Vegkop took place on 16 October 1836 near Heilbron in the Orange Free State. Earlier, an impi of about 600 warriors killed fifteen to seventeen Burgers near the Vaal River and abducted three children.

On Sunday 16 October, Silkaats sent his entire force of about 6 000 to attack the burghers. About 1/3 of this force, however, were slaves, who simply went along to



Panel 5 – Battle of Vegkop on the left and the inauguration of Piet Retief on the right

plunder cattle and chase them back. Two days before the battle, the burghers were warned by Bechuan bushmen or Bataoeng that the impi was on its way.

A round wagon fortification (laager) was formed by chaining the drawbars of the approximately 50 wagons under the next wagon, and all spaces were filled with thorn branches so that the attackers could not crawl through. The defenders were only 35 men strong.

On the morning of the attack, the burghers rode several kilometers to meet the enemy, because perhaps the Ndebeles (Matebeles) could be driven back and a direct attack on the laager repelled. The burghers were on horseback, and the Ndebeles on foot, armed with assegai and shield. The burghers were able to shoot many, but this did not prevent the Ndebeles from advancing slowly to the laager. After about three hours, the men were back at the laager. They entered the laager and prepared to defend it with a minority, a ratio of about 1 man for every 150 attackers.

The Ndebeles remained just out of range to rest, and then grouped themselves into two crescents on either side of the laager, before an assault was carried out on the laager. Some tried to crawl through the branches, trying to cut off the leather straps with which the branches were tied, while others threw their assegais into the camp. After a short time, the Ndebeles fled due to their wounds and bloodshed. Two burghers were killed and 184 of the Ndebeles died outside the camp. It was estimated that Silkaats lost about a third of his men, but the spoils were great. 50,000 sheep and goats were looted, as well as 5,000 cattle, including all the draught oxen.



One of the five certificates issued as proof of the participation of the Henning Family League to the ‘virtual’ rebuilding of the monument during the Covid-19 pandemic which started in 2020

Second Basotho War 1865's Vechtkop

For the sake of interest, we would also like to tell you about the Henning's involvement in another Battle of Vegkop that took place during 1865 during the Second Basotho War between Trekboers who moved to the South of the Free State and the Basotho impi's of Moshoeshoe (also called Mosjesh) and which brought the Second Basotho War to an end. The Boer Commando under the command of the famous Kmdt Louw Wepener gathered on the farm of a2.b1.c3.d7. Daniël Stephanus Albertus Henning * 20-7-1938 in the later district of Zastron. As a result, Danie Henning's farm was named "Het Kamp" (the camp) and the hill on the farm where the final battle took place was also called Vechtkop.

An exceptional Henning family

We were aware that a2.b7.c5.d7.e2.f1. Professor Cosmo Grenville Henning * 20-4-1932 was a giant in the academic field. He was an outstanding cultural historian, musicologist and archivist.

He and his wife, Joyce (born Roebuck) had three sons and a daughter: Paul Roebuck Henning * 9-4-1963 (g1); Michael Anthony (Mike) Henning * 19-3-1964 (g2); Adrian Grenville Henning * 2-7-1971 (g3) and their daughter, Susan Claire Henning * 24-12-1972 (g4).

In the Ons Haantjie of May 2021 we reported on the exceptional achievement of Prof Mike Henning (a2.b7.c5.d7.e2.f1.g2. Michael Anthony Henning) from the University of Johannesburg who worked as a mathematician at the University of Johannesburg. He was honoured with his rating by the South-African National Research Foundation in the highly coveted A1 category of researchers.

In the same newsletter, we also reported on Mike's brother, Adrian Grenville Henning, who excelled in Commercial Sciences, but who is nowadays an American citizen with his wife, Janice Lyn (born Turvey).

We have now learned that the other two children, Paul Roebuck (g1) and Susan



Claire (g4), also live with their families in the USA and that Paul has also excelled academically, namely in medical science where he is an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Southern Alabama and Medical Director at the Orange Beach Fire Department. We will report more about him and his family in the next newsletter.

According to brother Adrian, their sister also performed exceptionally well, but she was not willing to share her accomplishments with us - or brag. The tragedy is that three of the four members of this exceptional family no longer live in South Africa, but in the USA.

Prof Paul Roebuck Henning *9-4-1963 of the University of South Alabama, USA

More Hennings who emigrated



Don Sigmund Henning *30-4-1962 and his wife, Maria Carolina (born Joubert) in better days

a2.b6.c4.d7.e1.f9.g1 Don Sigmund Henning * 30-4-1962. From New Zealand we received a letter from Don Sigmund Henning. He is a son of Lambinon Henning and his wife Barbara Ottielle (born Thöle). Lambinon Henning was born in Argentina as the ninth, and youngest child of Willem Frederik Henning and his wife, Roelfina Fredrika (born Van der Walt) who, shortly after the end of the Anglo-Boer War, in 1905 emigrated with a large group of Afrikaners to Argentina.

However, Lambinon Henning returned to South Africa in 1938 with his mother and 234 other families. His father died in Argentina. Barbara Ottielle Thöle was born

in the old Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and all three of their children, Don Sigmund and the twins, Loretta and Yvette were born in Zambia - Don on April 30, 1962 and the twins exactly three years later on April 30, 1965. This is therefore a family of many countries.

Our data in the Family Chronicle stopped at the names of Don Sigmund and his two sisters and we hoped that Don would be able to supplement all - or most of - the missing data for us.

After school, Don worked at Coca Cola in Pretoria for eleven years when this company wanted to force him to train a black man to take over his job. He was a Production Manager at the time. The new political dispensation in South Africa has just arrived and he realized that he would no longer have a future at Coca Cola. Don resigned and started his own business. His clientele was 95% black people and after three years he could no longer tolerate the unpleasantness and tension that the business entailed. He decided to look for work again, while his wife took over the business to at least keep the pot boiling.

He got a job in Botswana at a diamond mining company and was appointed as Operations Manager. It worked well, apart from the fact that he could only go home once a month. This meant that things did not work out here in the long run because he and his wife started drifting apart. He also thought about the future of his children in the "new South Africa". He decided to emigrate to New Zealand. At that time - May 2007 - he and his wife divorced and only his son emigrated with him. His daughter, Nastassja, stayed behind in South Africa to complete her studies.

Today, he and his son are New Zealand citizens. His son - also Don - was born in Tzaneen on 30 January 1989. He is married to Lindie Greyling and they have a daughter, Amelia who was born on 9 July 2018. Don's daughter, Nastassja was born in Tzaneen on 7 September 1987. She is not married but is in a permanent relationship with Dieter Fritz. They live in Pretoria and have a son Liam Fritz.

□

b5.c4.d7.e1.f3.g1.h1. James Stephen Henning * 1-1-1968 (known as Steven) informed us that he, his wife, Nicola Jeannine (born Botha) * 7-11-1964 and their daughter, Charlotte * 26-7-2002 emigrated to the UK, to ensure a better future for Charlotte.

After long and serious consideration, they came to the conclusion that there would be no future for their daughter in the so-called "new South Africa" with its indelible crime, lawlessness and corruption.

However, Steven requested that we not forget about them, because they remain proud Hennings and descendants of progenitor Pieter Hendrik Henning. They will still want to receive their Ons Haantjie newsletters regularly.

Benjamin De Bruyn, son of a2.b7.c8.d8.e1.f4. Dina Margaretha Jacoba De Bruyn (born Henning) * 23-4-1934 (known as Dientjie) informed us that he, his wife Elizabeth (born Coetzee), and their daughter Bernedine emigrated to the USA in 1997.

For the first six months, they lived in Nebraska and then moved to California. It was very difficult for them to move to another country. They bought a house in Folsom, California. Their youngest daughter Netashia was born here on April 6, 2000. She is currently a nursing student in Arizona.

Benjamin says that as a family they still speak Afrikaans to each other. They still make their own biltong and dry sausage. There are several South African families in their area and before the Covid pandemic they often hung out around a braai fire and enjoyed good company. Bettie also regularly attends a South African coffee outing every month.

To emigrate or not?

We have reported in the last few newsletters on several Hennings who have emigrated to other countries. In this article we tell about three more families who emigrated apart from the two we talked about in the previous article.

With what is happening on the political front in South Africa today - all the crime, racism, corruption, lowering of all standards, deterioration of the country's economy, the decline of municipal governance, BEE, and so on, and so on - emigration is certainly a welcome and workable option, and we wish our cousins the peace of mind and prosperity they are now experiencing.

But, without getting involved in politics, we also want to point out that all is not lost for those Hennings who cannot or do not want to emigrate, but keep on living in this country - which is as much our country as those who are now trying to drive us away. Surviving in Africa is not for 'sissies'! Our ancestors were crushed on several occasions, but each time they stood up, fought back and only with their own strength,



Stephen Henning *1-1-1968 and Nicola Botha on their wedding day

ingenuity, zeal, and industriousness they carved out a place for themselves in the glorious South African sun. We quote the words of the nineteenth-century minister, Rev. (Father) Kestell: "A nation saves itself".

We have so many organizations that look after the interests of our people - Solidarity, Afriforum, FAK, Heritage Foundation, Orania Movement, Afrikanerbond, our churches and in the political field a party that openly and unashamedly looks after the interests and group rights of Afrikaners and other minority groups. Each of us should do everything in our power to get involved and / or support at least one of these organizations. Then there is no way the current government and its cronies are going to manage to destroy us.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

On April 10, 2021, b1.c6.d4.e6.f2.g2. Pieter Abraham Henning * 16-10-1941 and Jeanetta * 01-01-1949 (born De Koker) reached a special milestone when they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Piet is the second eldest child of b1.c6.d4.e6.f2 Salomon Johannes (Sampie) Henning * 30-07-1910 and Martha Jacoba (born Loots) and was born in Bloemfontein, but grew up in Bethlehem in the Eastern Free State. After school he started working for the South African Railways and in September 1966 he moved to Pretoria where he worked at the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) until 1994. After that he worked for shorter periods at a glass factory as well as a factory that installed train wheels for three ton trucks.



Pieter Abraham Henning *16-10-1941 and Jeanetta (born De Koker) who celebrated their golden marriage anniversary on 1 April 2021

Jeanetta is the youngest child of Johan Christiaan (Jonnie) de Koker * 12-10-1900 and Francina Petronella (Nellie) * 29-03-1907 (born Weyers). Jeanetta was born in Beaufort West where she completed her school education. In early 1967, she began nursing education at the then H.F. Verwoerd Hospital. Until her retirement in 2014, she was employed in nursing.

In 1970, shortly before Jeanetta finished her initial training and was to return to the Cape, she went to greet a nursing colleague, Natalie Botha, at her

flat. Piet and his brother, b1.c6.d4.e6.f2.g3. Salomon Johannes (Sampie) Henning * 26-12-1945 shared an apartment in the same complex at that time and was a table lodger with the Bothas. Sampie had to withdraw early to attend evening classes. After dinner Piet was asked to take Natalie's parents (who were also present) home as well as Jeanetta back to the nursing home.

Piet was smart enough to first drop off the older couple and then for Jeanetta. There he asked her to join him going to a movie a day or two later. Needless to say, Jeanetta never went back to the Cape and the rest is, as they would say, history.

Piet has a particular fondness for music, photography as well as woodwork. Jeanetta enjoys knitting, crocheting and reading. They are also the parents of b1.c6.d4.e6.f2.g2.h1. Salomon Johannes * 21-01-1973; b1.c6.d4.e6.f2.g2.h2. Marissa * 17-02-1976 (married Petzer); and b1.c6.d4.e6.f2.g2.h3. Theuns Christiaan * 01-10-1980.



Micheal Jan Henning *20-2-1988 who died in a motorbike crash on 1 April 2021

Deaths

a2.b9.c3.d3.e3.f4.g3.h5.i2. Micheal Jan Henning * 20-2-1988, died on 1 April 2021 at 20:20 in Newcastle. He was the son Hermanus Engelbrecht Meyer Henning and his wife Estelle Reynette (born of Niekerk)

Michael was in a relationship with Lindie van der Merwe * 2-8-1998 when a baby girl, Mika, was born to them on 25 March 2017. However, Mika was registered under the surname Van der Merwe.

Michael died in an accident on his motorcycle when he crashed into the backside of a slow-moving bakkie without lights in the evening. He was

killed on impact. The driver of the bakkie then drove away.

Micheal received his "Full Patch Colors" from the Bellator branch of the Crusaders Motorcycle Club in December 2020. He took motorcycling very seriously and regularly saved money to attend rallies.

TO WALK WITH MUSIC

We have in the previous newsletter (No. 146 of May 2021) reported of the death of a2.b1.c6.d3.e11.f2.g3. Petrus (known as Pierre) Henning * 17-6-1950. Pierre's love for Afrikaans music made him a friend of several great Afrikaans musical artists. A month before his sudden death on March 4, 2021, he wrote an article about his involvement with these artists - as if he knew something was going to happen to him. How tragic! Due to lack of space we can only publish parts of his article and only one of his photos. Please read - very interesting:

In the beginning, I sat on Uncle Olaf's right leg. With my five-year-old index fingers in his big soft hands, we played the Heidelberg on the grand piano. This was probably my first awareness of music.

Olaf Andresen was best known for the songs, Heidelberg, My hart verlang na die Boland (My heart longs for the Boland), and Hoor my Lied (Hear my Song) which Gé

Korsten sang in the movie with the same name. My father was a proofreader at the Transvaler newspaper and from time to time got poems published in the newspaper.

Olaf noticed this and asked my father to write lyrics for songs. Although my father never did, they formed a close friendship - especially after finding out that both were members of the Ossewabrandwag (a far right Afrikaner cultural society during the Second World War) - where my father also met John Vorster.



Petrus Henning (known as Pierre) *17-6-1950 and his wife Andree

One of my biggest sources of bitterness is that I did not keep up with piano lessons in primary school. The interest in music was always there. In high school, I could not wait to listen to Evelyn Martin's request program on LM Radio in bed on Sunday nights.

During the early eighties I was friends with Francois Breytenbach who lived on his father's plot in the East of Pretoria (Bashewa). In his farm shop's storeroom we made music almost every Friday night. Not me, but somehow the task of "convener" ended up on my shoulders. So next to the wood stove and between the flour bags and boxes and tobacco smell, "handmade", raw, earthy music could not sound better.

Incredible times and very well attended by people from the area like friend, Dr Ed Retief (geologist), who had a deep, deep knowledge of country music, Jurg Myburg, radio announcer and rugby commentator and several others.

During this time (27 Sept. 1985) a 'show' was presented in the Aula theater of the University of Pretoria. Me and two friends attended the show. The musicians were Jannie du Toit, Tessa Ziegler and an unknown person named Lucas Maree. He was about to make his first album, "Kiekies" ("Pic's") available.

Lucas was last on the program and when he walked up, I was amazed by the man. Long white robe and long, long hair hanging down to under his shoulders. When he finished his show, we were speechless. Outside in the foyer, Ed (one of my friends) turned to me and said (almost ordered) "Get that guy for our Friday night meetings."

And so it happened. And my life was irrevocably enriched by the lifelong friendship we had with the Maree's.

During this time, TRUK also hosted a monthly show, 'Kerslig, Vers en Melodie' (Candlelight, Verse and Melody), presented by Anneli van Rooyen. A concept that originated in Jannie du Toit's house. We never missed a show, and saw people like Coenie de Villiers, Jannie du Toit, Louis van Rensburg, Juanita, and later of course Lucas Maree.

I was privileged to accompany Lucas to numerous recordings and concerts at the SABC.

On another occasion, Lucas and I drank coffee in the SABC's cafeteria with director Alwyn Swart. Lucas told him about a project we started. We started writing a TV series for kids that takes place in a museum. Alwyn immediately liked the idea and explained to us how the format should be for submission to the SABC. I think the knowledge content value of such a 13 episode series immediately grabbed Alwyn's imagination. I stayed with Lucas on his plot for a weekend and we were almost finished writing the first episode. We laughed more about what happened with the two characters in the museum, than we wrote. The nature of the boy and girl was such that the story wrote itself. We sometimes cried from laughter. And Lucas could laugh so loud.

But alas, my wife and I planned to move to Durban and the tendency to scale down Afrikaans at the SABC also dampened our enthusiasm.

It was at the same plot where at one point I had to act as an "extra" during a video filming of a recording of one of Koos du Plessis' songs that Lucas sang. At one point we came across Johan Stemmet at the SABC. He recognizes me and told us how much he and Johan van Rensburg laughed for my "contribution". Apparently I had a very churlish look that was very appropriate.

Laurika falls off the stage

The University of Potchefstroom held a music festival during 1986. Among the artists who performed were Laurika Rauch and Lucas. I took leave on Friday and we went to Potch for an unforgettable weekend.



Pierre Henning took this photo back stage when Laurika Rauch was waiting for her turn. She is sitting in front. Lucas Maree busy warming up on his guitar

Laurika was beyond herself with excitement as her new album was about to appear and that night she sang some new songs. She told us that she was severely depressed for months because she could not get new material to sing. One night her husband, Chris Torr, came to her and asked what she thought of the

song he wrote. Her husband (professor in economics) was also there over the weekend and what a wonderful person. He grew up on a farm in the Karoo, but could barely speak Afrikaans.

Chris then played 'Brief aan Mannetjies Roux' (Letter to Mannetjies Roux) for her. She could not believe it. We all know how many real Afrikaans songs came from his pen. He gave us a cassette and we played it over and over on the way back home.

Back to Laurika. From behind the curtains we could hear that she was a huge success. Then everything suddenly became quiet. Lucas sneaks around the curtain.

Laurika fell from the stage - about 1 m high. The "spotlights" blinded her and she accidentally stepped too far forward. Luckily she did not get hurt and made a joke of it.

She gave Lucas a very fitting and nice compliment that weekend: "Lucas, you have a 'moerse' '(super) presence' on stage", she said.

A few months later at Laurika's house in Irene, Chris told us his songwriting strategy. He uses an Afrikaans saying to serve as a basis for lyrics. such as, for example, "The sun draws water", then he builds further. As the song progresses, the initial theme sometimes disappears completely.

I'm not sure whose decision it was to record some of Koos du Plessis's songs he never recorded, as a tribute to him. I think it was Lucas, Jannie or maybe Nick Taylor.

Lucas was the sound engineer and the recordings were done at Nick Taylor's studio at his house between Pretoria and Krugersdorp. (Broederstroom?) The artists were Lucas, Jannie, Coenie and Nick Taylor.

At one point (1987?) Lucas asked me to accompany him one evening to an event near Bronkhorstspuit arranged by the "Junior Rapportryers" (an Afrikaans cultural society for young grown-ups). During the event, Anton Goosen was honored for his contribution to Afrikaans culture. It was at one or another holiday resort and after the formalities the "guests of honor" (of whom Lucas was one) were invited for the "after party" at the chairman's house on a plot near Bronkhorstspuit - one or another advocate.

When Lucas and I drove back home, the sun was sticking its head out in the East. Out of the blue, I suggested that maybe we should invite Anton for a braai. "That would be quite nice" Lucas' replied.

At that time I was under the impression that Anton lived somewhere in the Western Cape and was pleasantly surprised when the SABC gave me his telephone number. He had a farm along the Hennops River near the confluence of the Crocodile and Hennops rivers.

A few Sundays later Anton came to visit us and it was nice to see him and Lucas talking land and sand.

In turn, Anton invited us to visit him on the farm. It was an incredibly stimulating era. My wife, Andréé, and I have talked many times about how intense and under pressure Lucas and Anton live. We spent nights talking about the field, the stars, life, the humor in life.

I remember times when I visited Anton alone and just slept on the carpet in the living room of the cottage. Anton has a deep knowledge and respect for Eugene Marais (one of the most well-known Afrikaans poets of the early 20th century) and poetry. Anton told me to buy the book, "Die Groot Verlang" (The Great Yearning), which is about Eugene Marais' life. I bought it and it is still one of my most precious possessions to this day.

Anton is a person who likes to reason (note: not just "talk") and needs people around him to share thoughts. During that time he lived alone on the farm and I think it must have been pretty lonely. One always felt welcome. Day or night.

On the farm there was another double-storey house Anton was busy erecting. One evening we had a barbecue outside. My bladder started to bother me a bit and I got up and walked to the river side to "see if the goat is still stuck". Out of the corner of my eye I watched the low wicket fence on the edge of the river bank, but did not see that there was a cove in the bank right in front of me. The next moment I fell about 2 m far on top of branches and rocks along the river. Broken toe and leg 6 weeks in plaster.

The following weekend we went to watch one of Anton's open air "shows" at the Willem Prinsloo Museum near Cullinan. When we got there, the action was already underway. While Anton sang, I came struggling with crutches to find a spot on the lawn.

Suddenly he stopped singing and said: "Oh, here's Pierre. He came to visit me last Saturday night and just disappeared into the night. We only found him under a tree on Tuesday. Fell off a cliff".

Everyone looked at me and laughed.

We often stayed at a private game reserve outside Warmbaths (Zwartkloof). Once Lucas and Anton came along.

Anton always took his guitar with him when he went somewhere, but never sang. Not even at the Gansbaailapa. No one expected that either. When I visit my dentist friend, I do not expect him to pull someone's tooth to entertain me while we visit.

Lucas was different. He enjoyed taking out his guitar and spontaneously started singing, if the atmosphere allowed.

At Zwartkloof Lucas could not resist it. Late night. The flames of the sickle bush threw ghostly shapes against the trunks of the thorn trees. Lucas started singing. Koos du Plessis's Cold Fire:

***"The coals glow like earlier evenings
but the fire is in my head* "**

It is actually only under such circumstances that the words of Koos begin to make sense. One listens to Lucas and the words, you stare at the fire and you become silent.

He took his profession and quality of recordings very seriously. Social life and professionalism do not mix.

Great was my surprise one day when he invited me to attend a rehearsal of the title track of the album "Winde van Verandering" (Winds of Change) on the farm.

In 1989 Andréé and I moved to Durban. The social conditions were totally different than in Pretoria. Because there is a relatively small Afrikaans community, we very soon met many fellow Afrikaners and were soon adopted by the small Afrikaans community.

Both Lucas and Anton came to visit.

During one visit, Anton took us to watch "Dead poet society", one of his favorites. Needless to say, mine too after that.

Due to Anton's insatiable interest in music, we visited many musical performances and nightclubs to watch the musicians.

As chair of the culture committee and member of the Geloofte Primary School's Management Board, I have arranged music concerts for the school.

Performances by Lucas, Jannie du Toit, and Coenie de Villiers ensured that the school hall was packed every time. Carel Trichardt and his wife Petru Wessels also came to visit.

When our children went to high school, the contact with Afrikaans music and friends began to wane. The work began to demand my full attention.

Out of sight etc.

With Lucas' illness, I made contact with him again. His last email to me was the one that hurt the most. Just one or two sentences in which he concludes:

"Tomorrow I have to go to jail again" (hospital)

I was forever sorry that I could not attend Lucas's memorial service - after I promised Ilse that I would be there. Unfortunately, circumstances did not allow me to go to Bloemfontein at all.

During 2012, I ran into Anton on Facebook again.

The old friendship was resumed after Andréé and I went to stay at Pringle Bay in April 2015. Anton and I saw each other thereafter quite often. Anton lives in Gansbaai. Andréé and I were very happy that he met a wonderful person like Estie, who is filling his life again.

One day if the virus has gone away, there will be serious visits again.

I think if there was one thing Lucas regretted, it was the fact that he allowed Leon Schuster to use him in one of his movies. Many times we walked in Esselen Street in Sunnyside and people stopped him and chatted. Always laughed at him about the incident. I could see he wanted to catch snakes (seeing red) but always stayed cool-headed.

Lucas had the greatest respect for Koos du Plessis' songs and no one could sing those songs like him. But he worked very hard to get the "Koos du Plessis" image out of his career. Everyone expected him to sing Koos's stuff, but Lucas wanted (rightly) to be seen as an artist in his own right. I'm glad he got it right later.

One concert will always stand out for me. Andréé and I went one evening with him to TRUK's Windy Brow theatre in Johannesburg. Anneli van Rooyen was at the helm that evening on behalf of TRUK as organizer of one of her monthly "Kerslig, Vers en Melodie" performances.

During these performances, Afrikaans was sung or instrumental items were presented, eg classical guitar by Tessa Ziegler, etc.

After the break, Lucas was the lead artist. He started with the guitar introduction of his first item and I almost got overwhelmed. He's going to sing "Green fields of France" in English. I cringe back in my chair. What is he doing?

No one, but no one, worldwide, could play and interpret this song like Lucas. He gave an incredible rendition of the song.

When he finished, the audience was dead silent. After about 5 seconds, the audience stood up like one man and gave him one of the biggest "standing ovations" I have ever seen. Ice broken! The rest of the evening was probably the best performance of Lucas I have ever seen.

These days it's quiet on the music front except for visits to Anton and his performances here in our area.

My walk with music just happened, but our friendship with Anton and Lucas enriched our lives immeasurably and took us to places we would otherwise never have been able to get to.

One must cherish the memories and deeply appreciate new ones that are yet to come.

Money matters

We are grateful to report that a number of people have responded to our emergency call for contributions over the past three months, as the continued existence of the Family League is in all respects dependent on donations by our members.

The undermentioned members regularly send a monthly contribution by debit order to the family league, which is invaluable:

Jan Hendrik Henning of Glenstantia, Pretoria; Mauritz Martin Henning of Theresapark, Pretoria North; Mrs Gesina Spangenberg of Tsumeb, Namibia; Mrs Runa (R T) van Straaten of Pretoriuspark, Pretoria and Pastor Antonie Henning of Daspoort, Pretoria.

Then the following people over the past three months have also made valuable contributions for which we are very grateful:

- a2.b7.c1.d3.e5.f1.g4.h3. Gert Hendrik Frans Henning – R1000.00 (he also contributed R5 000.00 to our monument project)
- a2.b7.c1.d3.e5.f1.g7.h1. Gert Hendrik Frans Henning *6-5-1971 contributed R200.00

All contributions are welcome as it shows us that members appreciate the efforts of the family league.

The bank details of the Henning Family League are as follows:

FNB, Villiersdorp (branch 200 712);

Account No. 6265 7601 483.

It is a current account

Please use your member number or initials and surname (if possible full first names) as reference who made the deposit.



HenningLeague - Donations Please! Even a small one will do



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