

* Napier Erfenis/Heritage *

APRIL 2026
EDITION 9

A MESSAGE FROM THE NHCBC CHAIRPERSON

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Easter weekend with plenty of chocolate! The rest of April looks to be a busy and artistic month.

From April 17th to 19th, the “Heritage on Foot” series will take place in Agulhas, Bredasdorp, and Napier, organised by the Archaeological Society of South Africa. The only event in Napier is on Sunday and features a talk and walk about the historic lei water channel, led by NHCBC member, Randall Fuller.

Event details are in the newsletter. At the end of April, specifically from the 25th to the 27th, Napier celebrates its Creative Napier weekend. This new date aims to improve on the previous schedule.

Creative Napier spotlights our local artists and, for the first time, features visiting artists. It promises to be an exciting three days. Visit the Creative Napier Facebook (Meta) page for details about the artists.

Simultaneously, the Dapple exhibition continues at the newly renamed Art in Napier Gallery (formerly Osner Gallery). If you haven't seen it yet, it's worth visiting.

The question of what qualifies as valuable heritage is always intriguing. The recent quilt exhibition at the NGK Church Hall was fantastic. If you missed it, look out for it again next year. To me, these quilts represent the heirlooms of the future, and the newsletter delves a bit more into the idea of “living heritage”.

Please forward any heritage-related requests to us or share any relevant information you have about local heritage assets.

Enjoy the rest of April!

Warmly,
Marina Richards



PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE NAPIER
HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION BODY
NAPIERHERITAGECONSERVATIONBODY@GMAIL.COM

IN THIS ISSUE



Feature: Heritage
House: 36 Groenewoud Street



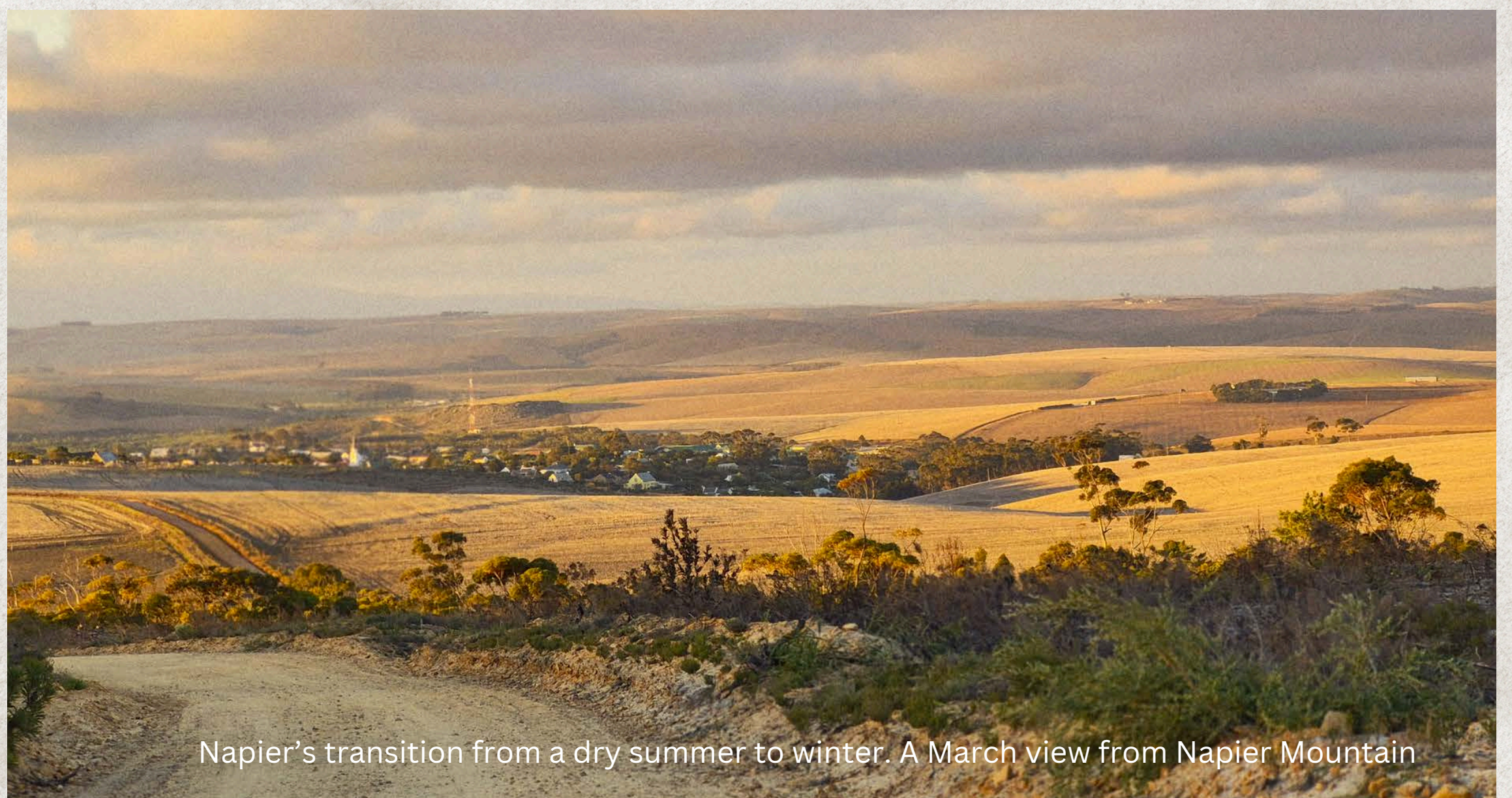
Heritage Crafts:

- Quilting
- The Craft Club

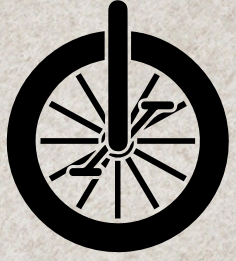


Living Heritage:

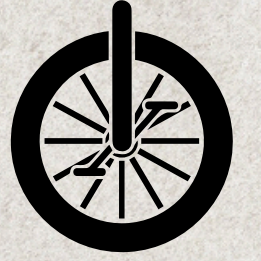
- The definition
- Battlefield Napier:
Beat the beefwoods



Napier's transition from a dry summer to winter. A March view from Napier Mountain



HERITAGE HOUSE



THE HOUSE WITH THE COLUMNS

NAPIER'S MOST DISTINCTIVE ADDRESS?

6 Groenewoud Street has puzzled architects and delighted passers-by since 1938.

Nearly 90 years later, it's still the only house of its kind in town.

G

Stand at the gate, and you could be forgiven for thinking you'd taken a wrong turn somewhere. The house in front of you, with its curved rotunda entrance, Classical columns, and formal balustrade, looks like it belongs in a Cape Town or Stellenbosch suburb. Not in a quiet Overberg dorp.

Edwardian or Art Deco?

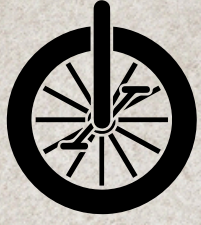
The 2024 *Napier Heritage Survey* classifies 6 Groenewoud Street as **Art Deco**, Early-Mid 20th Century, grading it 3C and noting it as a "distinct architectural typology." It is the only house of its kind recorded in the survey. But an architectural academic argues it is **Edwardian**. Both, it turns out, have a point.

From the street, the smooth white rendered walls, the formal symmetry, and the low-pitched roofline speak the language of Art Deco. This is the style that swept through South African suburbs in the 1930s, favouring clean surfaces over Victorian fussiness.

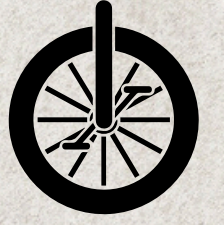
But the entrance tells a different story. The curved portico, the round columns with their Classical capitals, and the turned balustrade above are closer to the Edwardian Baroque that was fashionable for civic buildings in the early decades of the century. In a small Overberg town in 1938, an architect or builder working from multiple style books could easily have produced exactly this: a house that is confidently modern in its walls and emphatically Classical in its front door.



Anton and Lynn Ferreira are the house's latest custodians. On the next page are views of the inside of the house and the spot above the door, where the outline and two screw holes indicate that 6 Groenewoud Street was built in 1938.



TANNIE ANSIE'S HOUSE



Step inside and the Edwardian influence becomes even clearer. The columns don't stop at the threshold; they continue into the entrance hall, carrying the portico's Classical language through the front door, suggesting a unified architectural vision rather than a happy accident.

An architectural academic has identified the columns as Tuscan, the simplest of the Classical orders and a hallmark of Edwardian civic and domestic architecture across South Africa, thereby placing the house's most distinctive feature firmly in the Edwardian tradition, despite whatever the exterior walls might suggest.

Art Deco interiors moved away from Classical column forms toward geometric pilasters or plain structural supports. Carrying Tuscan columns through the front door into the entrance hall is an Edwardian gesture that the Classical order of the exterior should also dignify the interior. Wide-board solid-wood floors, deep painted skirtings, substantial plaster cornices, and glazed panels at the front door all indicate that whoever commissioned this house was making a statement.

Tannie Ansie's House

The current owners, Lynn and Anton Ferreira, have not been able to establish who originally built or owned it. They do know that the property was transferred into the name of Annie Matthee Swart, Tannie Ansie, to everyone who knew her.

A niece recalls that Tannie Ansie had moved to the house from a farm when the land became too much for her to manage alone. She lived there until she died in her early 90s, and the house bore the marks of a long, full life and a very long occupancy. By the time she died, in November 2020, it was in considerable disrepair. She was buried in the local cemetery.



In 2020, Petro and Sybrand Coreejas-Brink bought the property. All houses standing in Napier in 1938 were numbered as part of the centenary celebrations, a simple but historically invaluable record. Number 6 Groenewoud Street no longer has its plaque, lost somewhere in the decades of renovations and changing hands, but look carefully at the door frame and the evidence is still there: a faint outline and two screw holes marking exactly where it sat.

It is this detail, along with Petro's own research, that confirms the 1938 construction date. The Coreejas-Brinks spent significant time and money on renovating, stabilising, and restoring the house before selling it in 2021, without ever having lived in it themselves.



What's Lost, What Remains

Napier's 2024 Heritage Survey notes that the original windows have been replaced with aluminium, an alteration made at some point during the property's long history that removes one layer of period authenticity. It's a common and usually irreversible change in houses of this age.

What remains, however, is remarkable. The columns, inside and out. The yellowwood floors. The portico and balustrade. And on the door frame, two small screw holes that are the last trace of a centenary that Napier celebrated 87 years ago.



The argument about whether the house is Art Deco or Edwardian will probably continue, which is exactly what a house this interesting deserves.





NATIONAL QUILTING DAY

Quilties Exhibit Their Quilts In Napier

W

What an amazing exhibition it was! On National Quilting Day in March, in the first of its kind in town, Hanna Kemp and 13 of her quilter students (according to Google, “the global term for quilters is now quilties”) displayed their awe-inspiring craft in the Church hall.



The beginner quilts (top & bottom) use many quilting styles



The quilter adds the intricate stitching. See below.



Below is an example of Hanna's work using appliqué for something other than quilting.



The exhibition was a success, with more than 200 people showing up, even some from Riversdale. The students were nervous at first; however, the questions and compliments soon made them relax and enjoy the buzz.

The quality of the work was astounding and inspiring, prompting Marina, our Napier Heritage and Conservation Body (NHCB) chairperson, to think about heirlooms.

The origins of quilting date back over 5,000 years. The earliest known evidence is a quilted linen carpet found in the Temple of Osiris in Egypt, along with quilted garments from China, also dating from the 5th century.

With this information buzzing in her head, Marina met with Hanna to discover more about this ancient craft.

Hannah Kemp's story

Hanna arrived in Napier in 2021 and, as a certified teacher from the South African Quilters Guild, she saw a great chance to bring quilting to the town. She started a beginner's class with about 18 students, and many of them are still quilting today, which speaks volumes about Hanna's enthusiasm.

Hannah says that, in the beginning, students focus on basic quilting techniques. Two “beginner” quilts were displayed at the exhibition. Each block has a different technique, so everyone can see what goes into making a quilt from scratch.

Once the basics are down, students can start getting creative and making quilts that reflect their own style. Quilts consist of three layers:

- **The top:** The first part, the top, is created by the Maker who designs it, chooses the fabric, and arranges and sews it together.
- **The middle:** Next comes the batting (or wadding), which forms the middle layer between the top and the backing. It adds warmth and bulk.
- **The bottom:** The backing is the third layer, which gets added at the bottom.

The final step is the quilter. The person who sews the layers together is called a Quilter and is often a different person from the maker. The Quilter is a skilled seamstress with a professional long-arm sewing machine. She adds the intricate stitching that makes the quilt pop.

Crafts like quilting are important because they provide opportunities for people to express their creativity, which brings a sense of well-being. And one must not discount the social aspect, as this is part and parcel of any creative group.

There's already talk about doing another exhibition next year, maybe with some workshops thrown in. If you are interested in learning this ancient art, beginner classes are available.

For more information, contact Hanna Kemp on 083-3817050 or email bossiekemp@outlook.com.

THE CRAFT CLUB CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Meet the Crafty Napierians

Have you noticed this wall hanging (top right) when visiting the municipal office in Newmark Street? Have you wondered what it means, why it was made, and who created it? What stories could this wall hanging tell if it could speak?

Our intrepid chairperson, Marina Richards, decided to investigate. She discovered that the beautiful wall hanging was created by the Napier Craft Club and gifted to the municipality to celebrate Napier's 175th anniversary.

Marina discovered that the Craft Club meets every Tuesday in a room at the church and decided to join them. "Unfortunately, the day that I went, there were only three ladies present, but we ended up having a lively discussion about all sorts of things", says Marina.

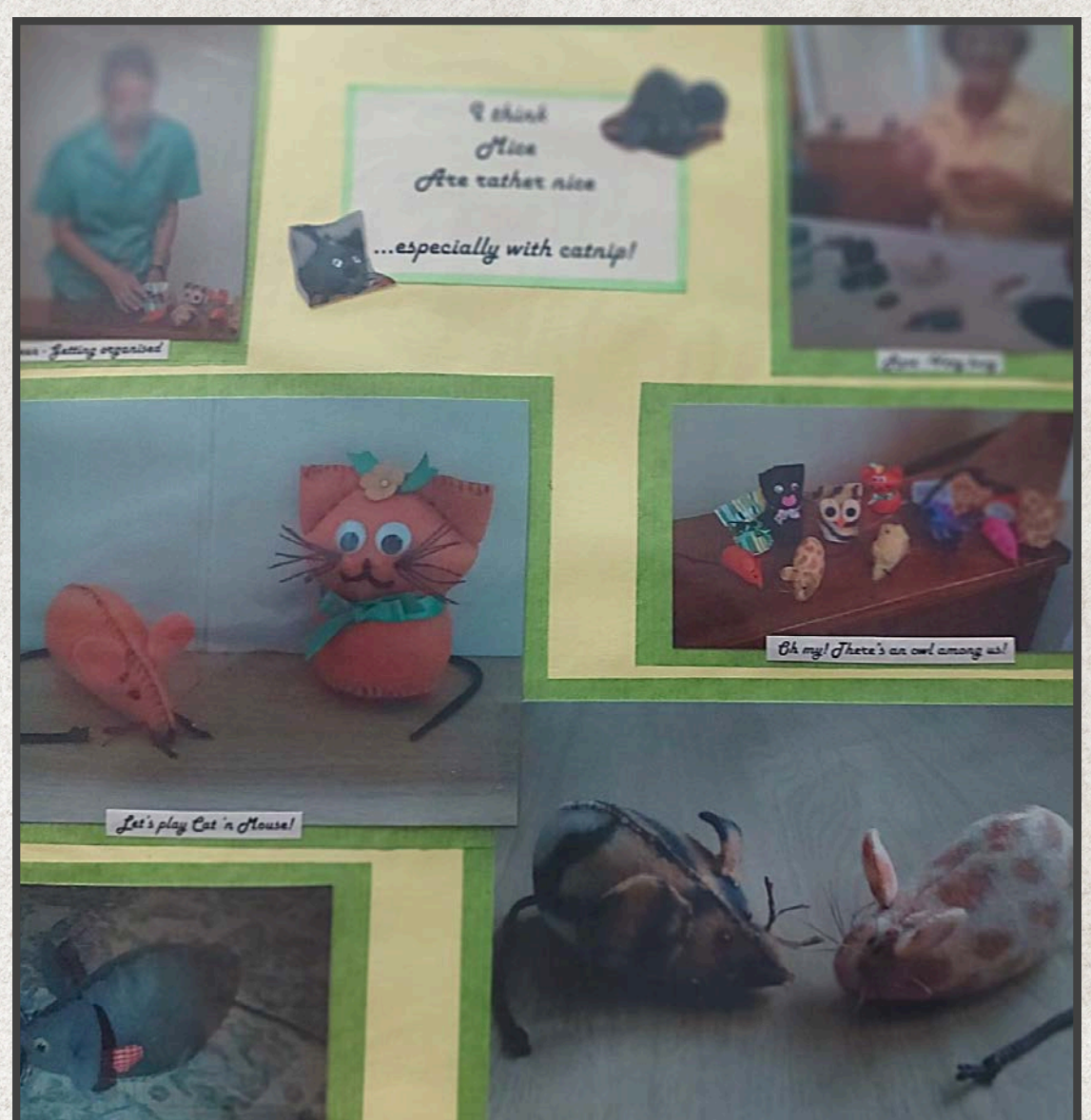
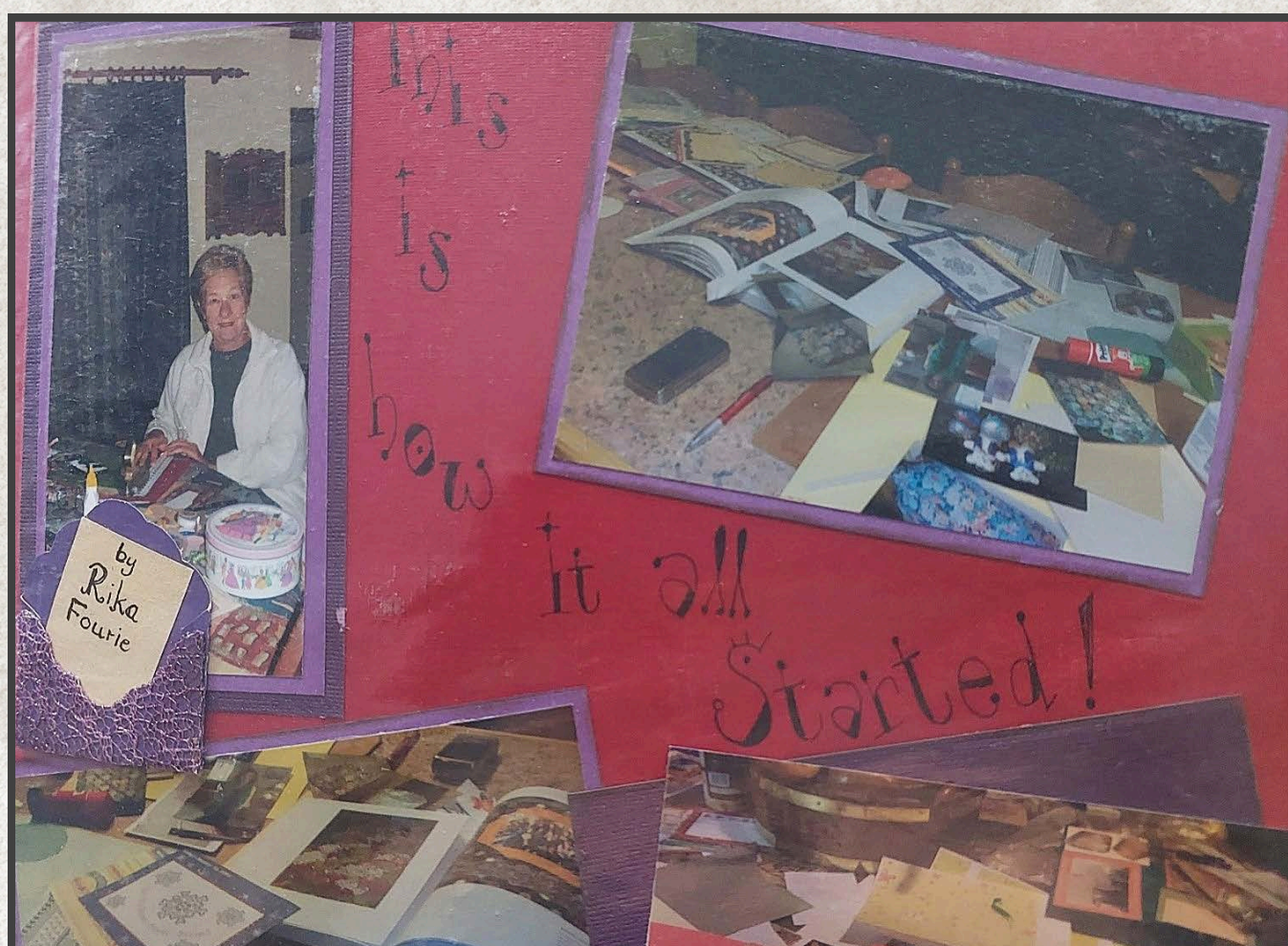
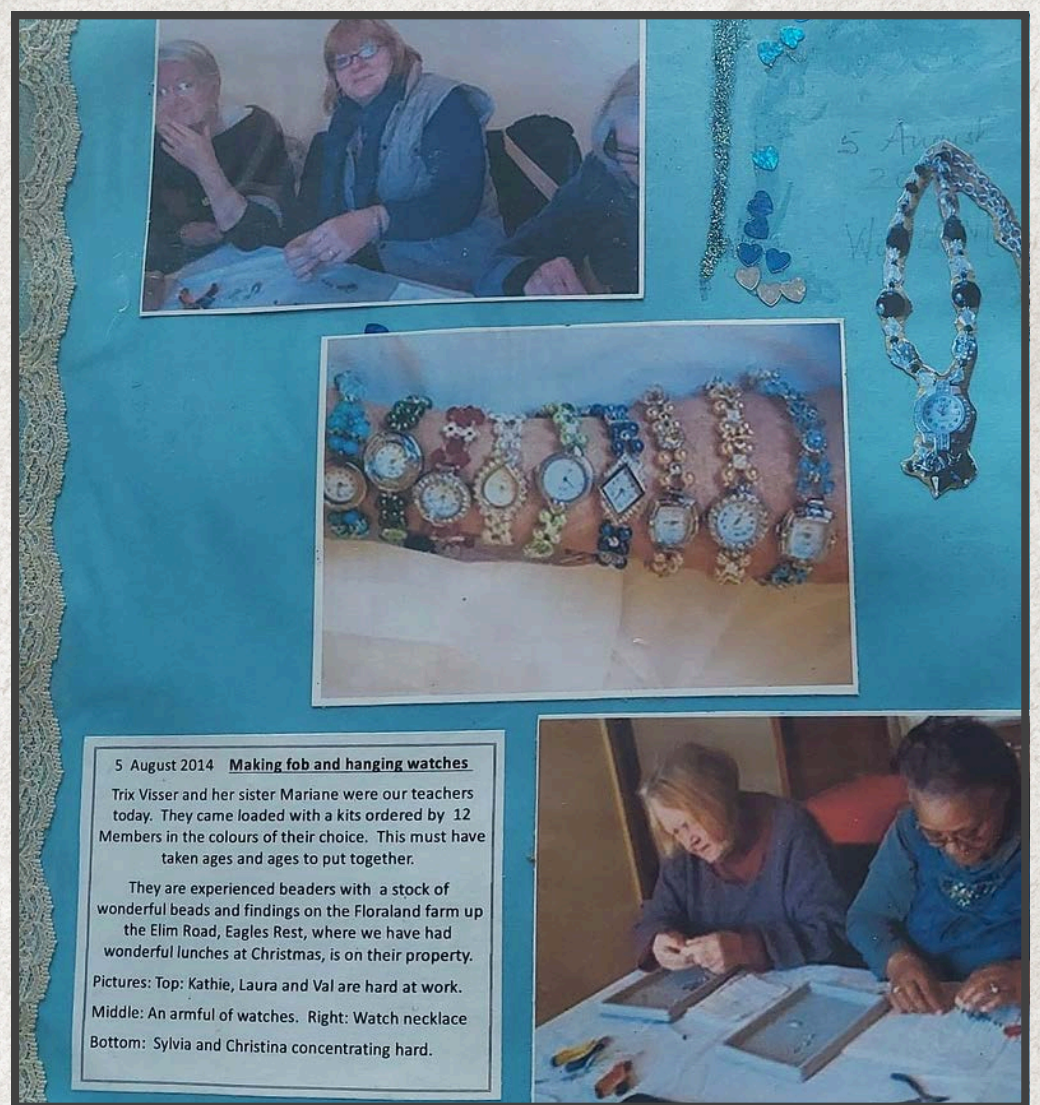
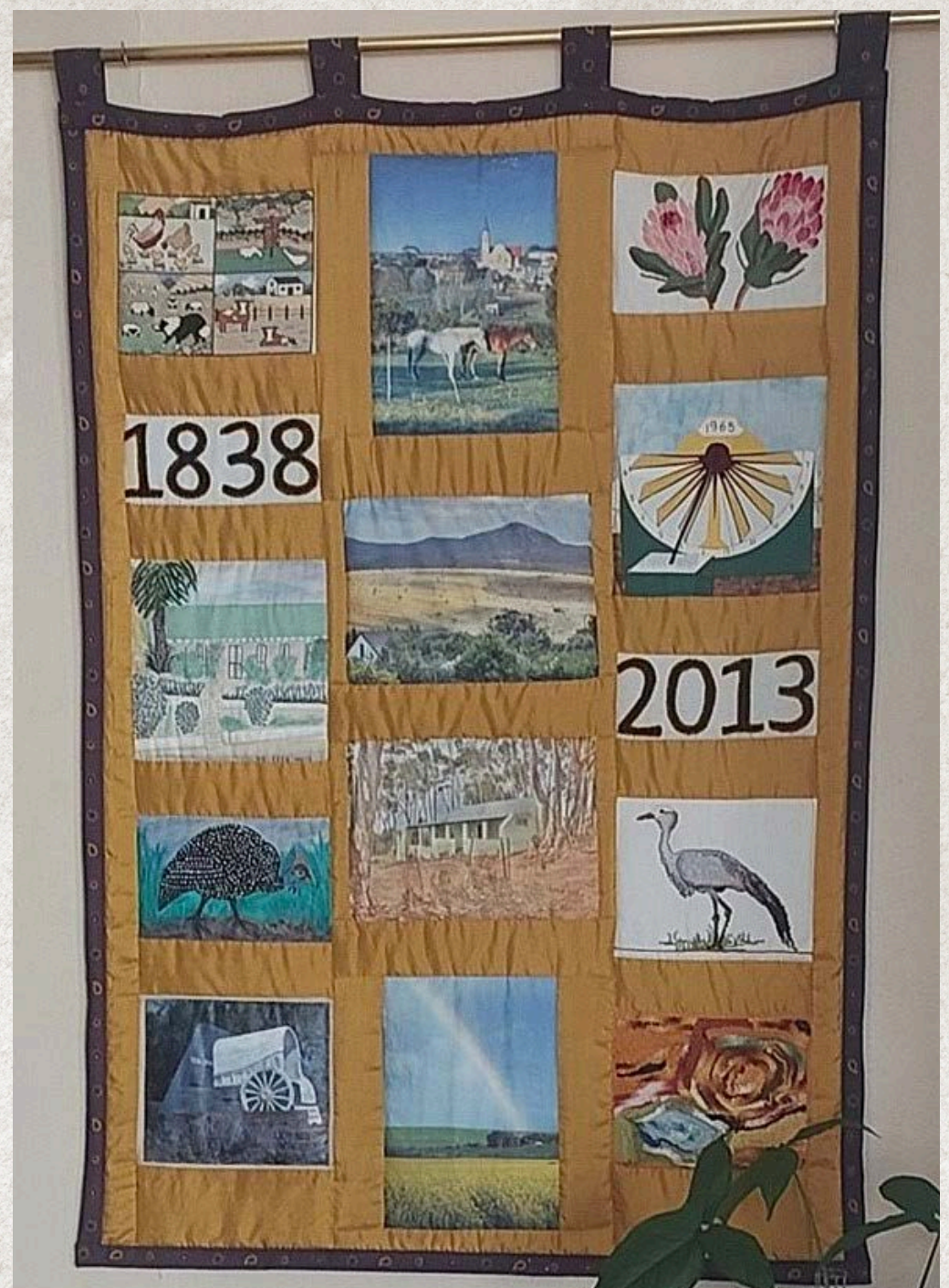
"They very kindly lent me their scrapbooks, which had been lovingly maintained and carefully organised. The scrapbooks themselves are works of art and provide a window into some of their achievements.

"For example, one scrapbook contains hand-drawn illustrations and detailed notes that capture important milestones in their journey. Unfortunately, the last book had been loaned to someone, so we may have to write a follow-up article".

The Napier Craft Club, founded by **Rika Fourie** in 2006, was established to foster creativity and community among local women.

Every Tuesday, the members gather to expand their crafting skills and strengthen their bonds. The carefully maintained scrapbooks reveal that the club's primary focus has always been to learn as many crafts as possible, inviting various experts to teach new skills.

Members learned to make teddy bears, bead intricate jewellery, embroider decorative linens, and crochet unique garments



The club undertakes one fundraising charitable project each year.

For example, the Club members dedicated their time and skills to crochet this blanket, which was raffled to raise funds, and the proceeds were donated to Huis Klippedrift.



Alongside these creative sessions, the group organised outings to nearby places of interest such as Arniston, Stanford, and Struisbaai, each offering fresh inspiration and opportunities.

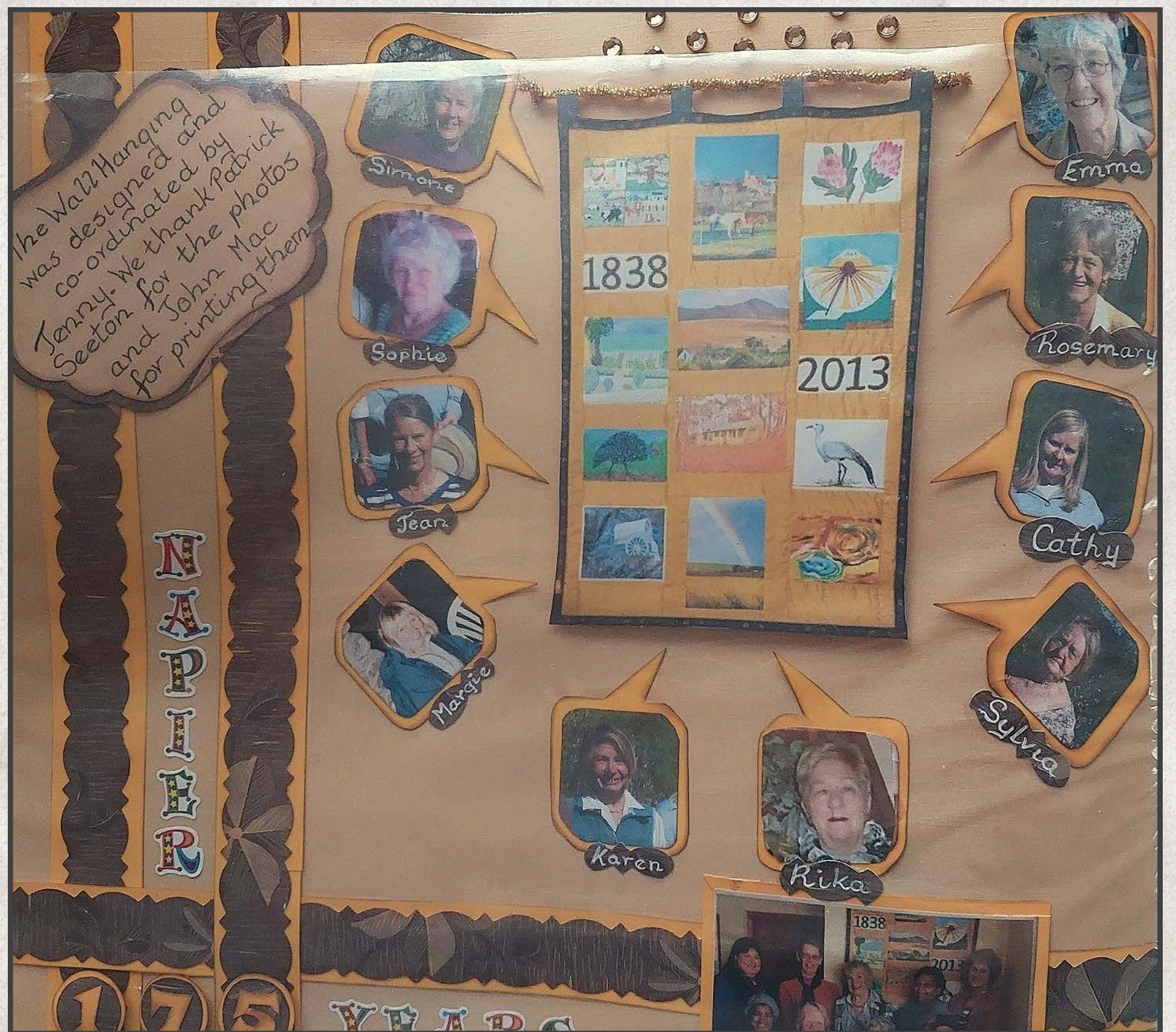
Many of these handmade ornaments and toys were lovingly crafted as Christmas gifts, to brighten the holidays and create lasting memories for as many people as possible. The club members wanted each recipient to feel the warmth of community spirit and the joy of receiving something made especially for them.

This year, 2026, will be their 20th anniversary. Members have come and gone but the club has continued. Friendships have been forged, adventures planned and everyone has learned new crafts. Long may they continue!

Over the past two decades, members have come and gone, yet the club's spirit and purpose have endured. Here's to many more years of creativity, camaraderie, and shared experiences!

The wall hanging contains symbols of associated with Napier's built and environmental heritage.

These are the ladies who made it for the occasion of Napier's 175th birthday.



So, what is an heirloom?

Combining various sources, it seems the term refers to an object that has belonged to a family for generations. It apparently originates from the 15th-century combination of “heir” and “loom”, literally meaning a tool to be passed down to an heir. It is also defined as a treasured item often carrying significant sentimental or historical value. They range from homes, vintage vehicles, jewellery, and cars to valuable antiques, documents, and objects of little monetary value but immense sentimental value.



Celebrating the legacy of traditions, art, objects, buildings, media, and our surroundings

W

When someone mentions the word “heritage”, we generally picture a historic building. However, a series of events in Napier encouraged me to look deeper into the idea of “living heritage”. These gatherings and creative endeavours illustrate that heritage is not just preserved in buildings but actively sustained through community traditions, artistic expression, and the ongoing participation of people who bring history to life with their hands and hearts.

On International Quilting Day, in March, Hanna Kemp hosted a vibrant quilt exhibition. The NGK Church Hall was transformed by an array of colourful quilts, demonstrating the creativity and stories woven into local tradition.

At the same time, Alex Hamilton’s “Dapple” exhibition at the Napier Gallery displayed contemporary art, and I discovered the Napier Craft Club, a hub of community activity that has thrived for two decades. Preservation and maintenance

The living heritage approach emphasises the continuity of cultural practices and community engagement in the preservation and management of heritage sites. It focuses on maintaining and reviving the original functions of heritage sites while ensuring they remain active and relevant within their communities.

This approach recognises that while heritage is about preserving physical structures, it is also about sustaining the traditions, practices, and social connections that give these sites their meaning.

Key principles include:

Continuity of function:

Heritage sites should continue to serve their original purposes or adapt to new functions that reflect the community's needs.

Community involvement:

Local communities play a crucial role in the care and management of living heritage. Their knowledge, practices, and traditions are integral to the heritage's ongoing relevance.

Adaptation and change:

The living heritage approach embraces change as a natural part of cultural evolution. Heritage is seen as dynamic, allowing for the incorporation of new expressions and practices while respecting traditional values.

Researched and written by Marina Richards

National Heritage Resources Act Definition of Living Heritage

Heritage is a living concept, embracing tangible and intangible elements that shape and sustain our cultural identity, as in the National Heritage Resources Act (1999).

The definition in the act list, among other items:

- **Objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage.**
- **Ethnographic art and objects.**
- **Military objects.**
- **Objects of decorative or fine art.**
- **Books, records, documents, photographic positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public record.**

Thoughts and questions

The words “Living Heritage” encompass far more than definitions, emotions and words.

It is also a call to action.

None of the principles and considerations can be actioned if we do not take responsibility for the health of our environment. This introduces the concept of stewardship, which is a conversation for another day.

The questions I am considering are:

- Do all residents of Napier understand and embrace the Living Heritage approach?
- Are all residents, both old and new, playing a role in keeping heritage alive, relevant, and vibrant today?



BATTLEFIELD NAPIER: BEAT THE BEEFWOODS

For the past seven years, a dedicated crew of “alien clearers” led by Kobus and Ronel Visser has been on a mission to rescue Napier’s Klippedrift River from invasive alien plants. Supported by the Botanical Society’s (BotSoc) Southern Overberg branch, this team, armed with suitable tools, meets every Friday morning to physically reclaim our local ecosystem.

The usual invasive plants include Port Jackson (*Acacia saligna*), cluster pine (*Pinus pinaster*), black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) and *Eucalyptus* (commonly known as “gum”) trees. Now the beefwood trees have entered the fray, and are invading riverbeds by the thousands.

What is a Beefwood?

Beefwoods (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) are tough, fast-growing trees from Australia. In the Western Cape, they are often used as farm windbreaks or for timber, but when they escape into the wild, they become an environmental nightmare.

The National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) classifies Beefwoods as Category 2 Invasives. You can only grow them with a permit in specific, demarcated areas. Like all non-indigenous plants, it is illegal to grow them within one hundred metres of a river (riparian zone) or wetland. Landowners who fail to control alien invasive plants can face fines of up to R5 million.

What about the Klippedrift River?

The team recently discovered that things are rapidly spiralling out of control. A single female beefwood can scatter thousands of seeds over half a kilometre downstream in just two years. They quickly germinate and are fast-growing.

The thirsty seedlings are rooting on the banks and increasingly in the riverbed, contributing to the already reduced stream flow due to less rainfall and hot weather. This spells disaster for our river and the wetlands that depend on it.

Ronel and Ina Georgala say the spreading invasion is happening while the team is already battling millions of Port Jackson seedlings triggered by the recent Monsanto Road fire.



We need you!

Help stop this environmental disaster before the winter rains arrive.


Whether you're handy with a pair of loppers or want to help pull saplings, we need you!

WHEN: Every Friday, 8h00 – 10h00 am

WHERE: Klippedrift River, Trade Street area

Contact Ronel Visser on 0849411883 to join the Battle of the Beefwoods

FOR YOUR DIARY



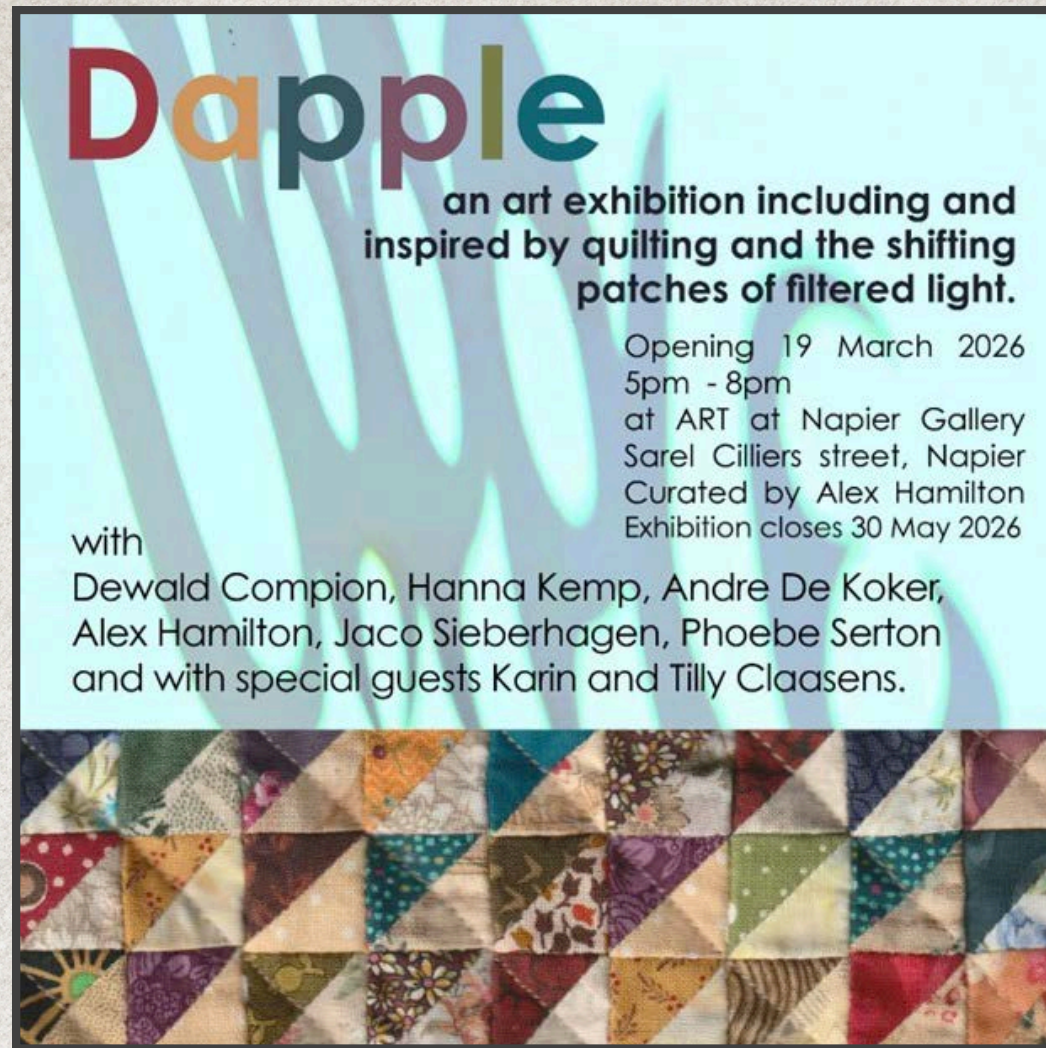
**CREATIVE
NAPIER**

6TH EDITION
SEEDS

OPEN STUDIOS | EXHIBITIONS | GUEST ARTISTS
ART ROUTE OPEN DAILY 10.00 - 16.00PM

Come join us for an art-filled freedom day weekend.
Maps will be available throughout town & in studios.

**25 - 27
APRIL
2026**



Dapple
an art exhibition including and
inspired by quilting and the shifting
patches of filtered light.

Opening 19 March 2026
5pm - 8pm
at ART at Napier Gallery
Sarel Cilliers street, Napier
Curated by Alex Hamilton
Exhibition closes 30 May 2026

with
Dewald Compion, Hanna Kemp, Andre De Koker,
Alex Hamilton, Jaco Sieberhagen, Phoebe Serton
and with special guests Karin and Tilly Claasens.

The **Dapple** exhibition features contemporary art inspired by patchwork quilts, the cause-and-effect of filtered-light patterns, and traditional and miniature quilts. It is also the first exhibition to be held at the renamed Art at Napier Gallery, curated by Alex Hamilton, the newly appointed curator at large. He is assisting in transforming this beautiful space into a new era of art and creativity. The exhibition runs until the end of May, so do yourself a favour and pop in!



NAPIER
**CLASSICAL
CONCERT**
COLLECTIVE
063 769 4617

**ANTONIO
VIVALDI**

The Four Seasons
and other works

The St George's Players
SOLO VIOLIN: ANNIEN SHAW

R150 PP
WHATSAPP BOOKINGS
063 7694617

**SATURDAY
25 APRIL 2026
3PM**

**NG KERK
NAPIER**

**CAPE AGULHAS
HERITAGE WEEKEND**

**ERFENIS-TE-VOET
HERITAGE ON FOOT**
17-19 APRIL 2026 *Save the date*

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN
AGULHAS HERITAGE SOCIETY (AHS)
THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA: WESTERN
CAPE BRANCH (ARCHSOC)
BREDASDORP HERITAGE ASSOCIATION (BHA)
FRIENDS OF THE SHIPWRECK MUSEUM (FSM)
AND
NAPIER HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION BODY (NHCB)



EVENT SCHEDULE
17-19 APRIL 2026

17 APRIL FRIDAY EVENING 18:00-20:30	LANG TAFEL (FSM)	
18 APRIL SATURDAY MORNING 07:00-08:00	SUNRISE BEACH CLEANUP AND COFFEE (AHS)	
18 APRIL SATURDAY MORNING 09:00-13:00	HERITAGE BASAAR (AHS)	
18 APRIL SATURDAY MIDDAY 12:00-13:30	HERITAGE ON FOOT: CAPE AGULHAS LIGHTHOUSE (ARCHSOC + AHS)	
18 APRIL SATURDAY AFTERNOON 16:00-17:30	HISTORY ON FOOT: BREDASDORP (FSM)	
19 APRIL SUNDAY MORNING 9:30 - 11:30 AM	HERITAGE ON FOOT: NAPIER LEIWATER (NHCB)	

**Heritage Western Cape
Feet On The Ground Engagement**

HWC in collaboration with the Western Cape Branch of the South African Archaeological Society invites you attend the **Heritage on Foot** engagement in Bredasdorp.

The engagement forms part of a weekend of heritage activities within Cape Agulhas

Date: Saturday 18 April 2026
Time: 17:45 - 18:45
Location: Bonthuys Gallery, 10 Van Riebeeck Street, Bredasdorp

hwc.hwc@westerncape.gov.za

Scan To RSV

HWC in collaboration with the Western Cape Branch of the South African Archaeological Society, invites you to attend the Heritage on Foot engagement in Bredasdorp. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM HERITAGE WESTERN CAPE is attending this meeting and will be available to answer questions.