
ANNUAL REPORT

2024/2025

Compiled MAY 2025

TOGRYERS MUSEUM

Authored by: Bertdene Laubscher



your truly husband
C.F. Higgins
40 Tucson

Christmas present hoping
when you dinner at
Christmas you will
remember me

PART 1 : GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 INTRODUCTION:

The 2024/2025 Annual Report is hereby submitted by die Board of Trustees to the Western Cape Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport in terms of section 21(1) of the Museum Ordinance, 1975 (Ordinance 8 of 1975).



L Lund (Chairperson)

2024-05-12

1.2 OVERVIEW:

It is a privilege to present a overview for the 2024–2025 year. The Ceres Togryers Museum has continued to build on its core objectives of preserving local history, promoting public education, and encouraging community engagement. This year, particular focus was placed on the preparation for the 200th commemoration of the 1825 Koue Bokkeveld Uprising. Important partnerships were established, research was supported, and community consultations were initiated to ensure that this commemoration will be inclusive and historically grounded.

The museum hosted a range of programmes, including writing workshops, poetry events, and school visits. Public engagement activities such as wellness walks, storytelling sessions, and film screenings were well attended. Social media continued to serve as an effective platform to share information and highlight items from the collection.

Improvements were also made to the museum's infrastructure. A new entrance to the conference room established and our reception area was upgraded. A coffee corner was added to enhance the experience of visitors and event participants. Our social responsibilities continued during the winter months through various initiatives.

The report give an overview of all our operations during the year and the management of our financial resources.

Bertdene Laubscher

Museum manager

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1.3 FOUNDATION AND LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

1.3.1 Origin and establishment

The Ceres Togryers museum was started during the 1970's by members of the community of Ceres that was interested in preserving the heritage of their town. It was proclaimed a local museum on 7 November 1978.

1.3.2.1 Proclamation and applicable legislation

The Ceres Togryers Museum was established as a Province-aided museum with effect from 1 April 1987 in terms of Notice 74 published in the Provincial Gazette No 74 dated 10 September 1986.

1.4 GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

1.4.1 The Board of Trustees

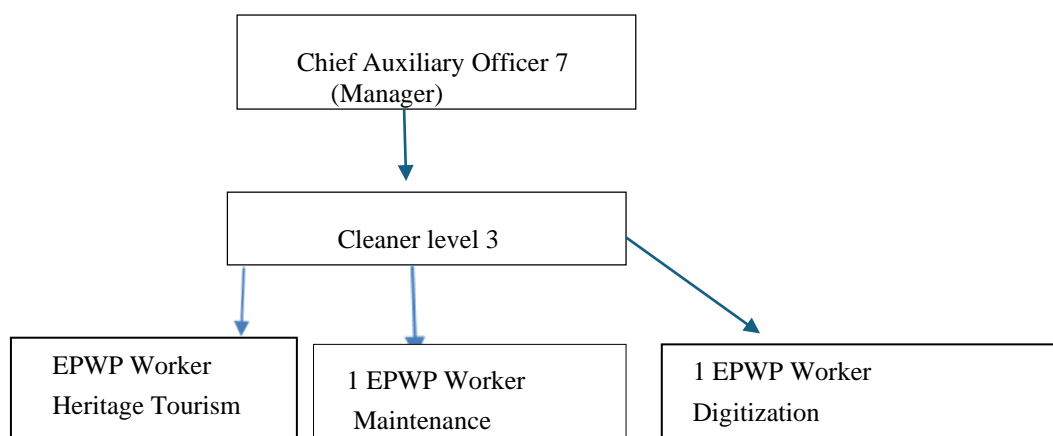
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CERES TOGRYERS MUSEUM				
NAME	CAPACITY	REPRESENTING	TERM BEGAN	TERM ENDED
Mrs W Hanekom		Premier's Representative	1 November	31 October 2025
Mrs S Wagener		Premier's Representative		31 October 2025
Miss L Lund	Chairperson	Premier's Representative		31 October 2025
Mr H Smit		Municipal representative for the year		Ongoing
Mr M de Villiers		Friends of the museum representative		June 2023
Mrs L Ngwane		District Municipal representative for the year	February 2022	Ongoing

1.4.2 Meetings of the Board of Trustees:

NAME	REPRESENTING	3/4/2024	22/5/2024	24/7/2024	24/10/2024	30/-1/2025	26/3/2025
W Hanekom	Premier Representative	Y	Y	y	y	Y	Y
S Wagener	Premier Representative	N	Y	y	Y	Y	Y
L Lund	Additional Premier Representative	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

NAME	REPRESENTING	3/4/2024	22/5/2024	24/7/2024	24/10/2024	30/-1/2025	26/3/2025
M de Villiers	Friends of the museum Representative	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
H Smit	Municipal Representative (local)	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lulu Ngwane	Municipal representative (district)	Y	N	y	Y	N	Y

1.4.3 Management team



1.5 VISION, MISSION, THEME AND KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE MUSEUM

1.5.1 Vision

To be a dynamic and welcoming community space where people can gather, collaborate and learn.

1.5.2 Mission

To educate, inspire, and connect with its community and visitors through exhibitions, memory, objects and shared identity, ensuring that the legacy of our heritage is preserved and appreciated by all.

1.5.3 Theme

The name "Togryers Museum" or Transport Riders' Museum originated from the huge influence that the transport riders had on the development of Ceres. The completion of Michell's Pass in 1848 made the town accessible to wagons, and one of the main routes to the diamond fields went through Ceres.

The most unique stories you will find in the museum is that of the 1838 meteor fall, known for its unique scientific significance and considered one of the most extraordinary meteorites worldwide, the 1969 earthquake which had a huge impact on the community of Ceres and surrounding area, Galant rebellion, the second biggest slave up rise in the Cape Colony, the Transport Riders and the significant influence that they had on the development of Ceres. Other exhibits include the first inhabitants and their lifestyle, a collection of wagons, the forced removals during the 1960's that look at the policies of apartheid and their impact on the community. and the Jewish Community, exploring their significant contributions to the cultural, economic, and social development of the town.

1.5.4 Key objectives

Strategic objectives

1. **To manage the museum efficiently.**
2. **To exhibit and promote the history of the Ceres community** through digital platforms, off-site
3. exhibitions, and community engagements.
4. **To market the museum** through social media and strategic communication.
5. **To collect and conserve the collection**, while promoting shared identities.
6. **To promote social cohesion** through public and outreach programs.
7. **To develop and present educational programmes.**
8. **To fulfill our social responsibility to the community through partnerships.**
9. **To strengthen the relationship** between the museum and the community to amplify impact and reach.
10. **To create an inclusive, participatory, and culturally relevant space** that welcomes every individual.

PART 2 : PERFORMANCE REPORT

2.1 APPROVED BUDGET: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The budget for the year under review was approved on *3 April 2024*

INCOME FOR YEAR ANDER REVIEW	EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR UNDER REVIEW
R 486 076,67	R 535 873,64

2.2 REVENUE

Entrance fees	4 620,00
Rental income of museum facilities owned by the Board	75 796
Sales of Goods including booksales	7 146
Interest	737

2.2.1 Subsidies/Grants-in-aid from government bodies

Annual Subsidy from the DCAS	152 212
Subsidy for EPWP	163 688

2.2.2 Grants in aid from bodies other than the three spheres of government

Municipality	39 432
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2.2.3 Sponsorships and Donations (incl fundraising): R 36 088

2.2.4 Admission fees

Admission for adults is R15.00 pp

Admission for children is R 5.00c per child

Local school groups visit for free
Local visitors visit for free

2.2.5 Rental income

The museum rent out its conference room for meetings and workshops

2.2.6 Sales

The museum sells books, post cards, boerseep and other goods for additional income.

2.2.7 Other revenue generating initiatives

None

2.2.8 Assistance and contributions in kind

No contributions were received

2.3 EXPENDITURE

2.3.1 Temporary staff expenditure of Board (where applicable)

N/A

2.3.1.1 Contract workers (EPWP):

Salaries	1 44 995,00
UIF	2 896,32
Other	9 414,95

2.3.2 Goods and Services

Goods and Services	247 380,45
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2.3.3 Capital expenditure

Capital Expenditure	68 530,83
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2.4 PROCUREMENT POLICY

The Manager and the Board of Trustees must together authorize any expenditure on furniture and equipment, after a real and immediate need has been identified only and subject to the necessary funds being available for the proposed purchase.

Should an item of equipment be required urgently, it may be purchased after consultation with an agreement by, the Executive committee of the Board of Trustees. At the next Board Meeting expenditure on the specified item **must be ratified** by the Board of Trustees.

All purchased items like equipment, furniture, crockery, kitchen utensils, curtains should be on the inventory list.

The museum will support local products

Procurements for smaller and regular items: < / less than R 3000

- For all these procurements < / less than R 3 000 **one quotation** (in writing) must be obtained.
- These purchases must be done locally or at the nearest/closest towns.

Procurements and provision of service: more > / than R 3000, but less than R 10 001

- For all procurements > / more than R 3 000 but less than R 10 001, **two quotations (in writing)** must be obtained, and if not possible a written motivation for deviation must be submitted / attached to the payment vouchers / documents, which must be signed by the Museum Manager or the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, or his delegate
- Local providers must be used as far as possible.

Procurements and provision of services: for > / more than R 10 000 but less than R 100 001

- For all procurements > / more than R 8 000-00 but less than R 100 001. **three quotations (in writing)** must be obtained, and if not possible a written motivation for deviation must be submitted / attached to the payment vouchers / documents, which must be signed by the Museum Manager or the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, or his delegate.

If it is not possible to obtain at least three quotations, the reasons must be recorded for audit purposes.

As a small museum, The Ceres Togryers Museum rarely has jobs sufficiently large enough to require a tendering process. Should this ever occur, the regulations of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport regarding the tendering process must be applied.

2.5 KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MUSEUM

2.5.1 EVENTS AND VISITS

The museum hosted a talk on health care as part of World Health Care Day which was celebrated on 7 April 2024 worldwide. Talks were presented by NORSA community care and Sister Christaline Williams of Ceres Palliative Care. Health topics such as hypertension, diabetes, and aspects of palliative care were covered, prompting a variety of inquiries from those present. The museum is not only dedicated to preserve the history of our area but also actively supporting the well-being of our community.

International Museum day; 18 May 2024

The museum celebrated International museum day on 18 May with hundreds of museums worldwide. For the first time, we also featured on the International Council of Museums interactive map. The exhibition "BURIED TREASURES" that was specially created for May, on display at John Steyn library from 6 -31 May. The exhibition consisted of objects laid buried for many years and donated to the museum over time. The museum celebrated African Day on 25 May through 8 local poets that created poetry and recorded it. A compilation video was created of all artists and was shared on social media and the museum's YouTube channel.

The museum presented a youth day program at the community centre in Prince Alfred's Hamlet. It was a day filled with games, movie, popcorn and a warm cup of soup. 63 children participated in the event.

Held on the first Friday of June, Crazy Socks 4 Docs day aims to break down the stigma and normalise the conversation around doctors and mental health. The museum created awareness around this event by encouraging everyone in Witzenberg, to join in the campaign by wearing funky, colourful and quirky socks on Friday, 7 June. Socks were handed over colourful socks to 29 local doctors in Ceres. We hope to create this awareness every year.

The museum distributed 302 cups of soup to residents of Ceres in honor of Mandela Day.

Because of the storm during the matric ball on 19 July, learners couldn't take outdoor photos. The museum stepped in, offering its indoor space. The total of 21 photo shoots took place during the day of the matric ball. Our dedicated museum personnel created interesting spots for pictures.

Women's day

The museum hosted its annual Women's Month event on August 20, focusing on the theme "Women and Their Health." The museum partnered with NORSA, who provided insightful talks on physical health. Estelle Thys delivered an inspirational message on spiritual well-being, and artist ZZ Winter entertained the audience with an exceptional poetry reading and music performance. There was also a two-day art exhibition from ZZ Winter.

The Ubiqua ATKV Youth Branch, Ceres, held their Women's Day celebration at the museum yesterday. Hazel Frans hosted a decoupage session, and Jenny van Wyk was the guest speaker. Ann Koopman is the chairperson of this branch.

Heritage Month

The museum in partnership with Ceres Tourism Bureau hosted various initiatives for the month of September. An ultimate Treasure Hunt was an engaging and well-thought-out activity designed to attract participants through the collaboration between Ceres Tourism and the Museum. The use of Actionbound simplified the process, making it accessible with easy-to-follow instructions. Overall, it presented a fun, interactive, and user-friendly experience.

The museum once again had the privilege hosting Prof. Laura Mitchell from the University of California at the museum on 5 September. She shared her further research on the slaves and Khoisan workers during the 1825 slave uprising in the Koue Bokkeveld. Descendant of the Galant family from the Koue Bokkeveld also attended the event. Several discussions followed thereafter. Next year marks 200 years since the uprising, and everyone agreed that this commemoration should not go unnoticed. A steering group, led by Wimpie Paulse, was selected to plan the commemoration.

The museum presented a Cultural tour on Heritage Day led by our own tour guide, Rudowaan du Toit.

The museum launched an online photo series with the theme “ My fav landmark” People were encourage to send in their favorite landmarks in Ceres and surrounding areas. It was then shared on social media with the description and the person’s name. The museum received several photos to publish.

Local poet Jadrick Pedro held a poetry reading morning at the museum on Saturday, 28 September, attracting local writers.

The museum welcomed an enthusiastic group touring the Forgotten Highway, led by Prof. Doreen Atkinson from the Karoo Development Foundation.

October is recognized as Wellness Month, a time to prioritize physical, mental, and emotional health. The museum hosted a wellness walk on 25 October to the Koekedouw Dam. This initiative will be held annually and we hope that it will grow to one of the main events in Ceres.

On the weekend of 5-7 October a school reunion of Fred Gaum, 1972 -1981 alumni took place in Ceres. The group visited the museum and interviews were conducted with the first principal, vise-principal, and head girl of the school

The museum entered into a new partnership with the Warm Bokkeveld Correctional Facility, launching this collaboration with our first poetry morning. This initiative aims to foster creativity and personal growth through artistic expression, starting with poetry as a powerful medium of rehabilitation and community connection. The event featured contributions from both inmates and local poets, showcasing the therapeutic value of literature and opening the door for future joint cultural activities.

As part of the Ceres Cherry Festival weekend from 8 to 10 November, a successful historical morning was hosted, featuring speakers who shared insights about the history of the Ceres Agricultural Show. The Ceres Show was a major event in the town's past, with the earliest records dating back to the 1800s when agricultural exhibitions were held in the town’s market square.

During November, brothers Anthony and Tim Fish visited the museum to uncover more about their grandfather, Wolfe Fish, a prominent Jewish resident in Ceres. Their search for stories and connections adds to our ongoing commitment to preserving the rich heritage and personal histories of the Ceres community.

On 30 November, the museum hosted a successful Koffie en Klank Open Mice poetry morning at the Homegrown Bakery & Café. Under the shade of oak trees, with the aroma of coffee filling the air, 11 local writers showcased their talent by reading their poetry.

On 3 December, the museum hosted a Fun and Games event at the facility of the Association for People with Disabilities. Thirteen clients from the center participated in the enjoyable event.

On 4 December a successful writers' workshop was presented by Anzil Kulsen from the ATKV and local writer Jadrick Pedro. The museum actively supports local writers by providing meaningful opportunities for them to develop their skills and nurture their talent.

On 9 and 10 January, the museum hosted movie mornings for children.

On Sunday, 2 February 2025, a group of fifty interested individuals gathered at the Kleinvlei Campsite in the Koue Bokkeveld to commemorate an event that took place 200 years ago. Under the leadership of the 1825 Koue Bokkeveld Uprising Committee, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the site commonly known as Koppieshoogte. This event was organized in anticipation of the unveiling of a memorial site on 24 September 2025, which will commemorate the historic 1825 Koue Bokkeveld Uprising.

On Thursday, 6 February 2025, around thirty people gathered at the Togryers Museum for another opportunity to listen to American historian Laura J. Mitchell. This was the professor of History at the University of California's third visit to Ceres. Thanks to her research and presentations at the Togryers Museum over the past two years, new attention has been brought to the story of the 1825 Koue Bokkeveld Uprising.

Inspired by the uprising 200 years ago, Prof Mitchell sparked discussions around the question: WHAT HISTORY MEANS TO ME. This led to a lively conversation where various attendees shared their views, particularly in relation to the uprising committee's theme for the commemoration: TO REMEMBER, TO HEAL, TO GROW. By the end of the evening, there was a shared sentiment that these kinds of discussions are essential and should continue to foster a deeper understanding of our diverse perspectives on history.

The museum in partnership with Social Development presented a human rights day program to Grade 6 learners from Ceres Primary School. The focus was on children's rights, but equally important were the responsibilities that come with each right. The museum also highlighted the importance of making the right choices as they grow up.

On Saturday, 1 March 2025, Mr. John Schuurman (former Fred Gaum student and member of the reunion committee) handed over a compiled publication to Mr. Marthinus de Villiers, a member of the museum's board. The book, Fred Gaum High School, 1972–1981: 50-Year Reunion Commemorative Book, reflects on the establishment of Fred Gaum High School, writings by former students, and the reunion weekend of 5–6 October. The museum is proud to have received a copy of this book.

The museum was delighted to welcome Ms. Yoko Wong and Mr. Takahiro Okabe from Japan on 4 March. They are clients of Ceres Fruit Processors and are here to visit the factory. We were happy to share more about the rich cultural history of our area with them.

The museum hosted the 1975 Charlie Hofmeyr matric class on Saturday, 22 March at the museum.

Sizonke Service Centre for the Frail visited the museum as part of our movie mornings during the year.

2.5.2 PROJECTS INCLUDING SOCIAL PROJECTS

On 19 April 2024, the museum launched its brand new website.

The museum added an additional entrance to the conference room from the side of the museum to accommodate renters over weekends and after hours. Through this change the conference facility can be accessed without using the main entrance to the museum. This will keep the content of the museum secure while the venue can be rented out over weekends.

At the beginning of June 2024 the museum started off its annual Coffee jar soup project. This project is supported by the community through donations and empty coffee jars that are filled with dry soup products. The total of 580 jars were handed out to the community in Bella Vista, Nduli and Ceres, Social Development and ACVV.

Every year in November, the museum focuses on the fight against **#gender-based violence** and asks the community to assist in donating toiletries for our rape victim comfort kits. These comfort kits are handed over to the FCS (**Family Violence, Child Protection, and Sexual Offences Unit**) for distribution to rape survivors. This year 53 comfort kits were distributed.

The Ceres Lions Club had a very successful fundraising for the Museum during September. We received just over R16 000.00. We are very grateful for their contribution this year and we hope to continue the partnership with Ceres Lions Club.

The museum held a donation drive for premie babies for February. All donations were handed over on 26 February to the local maternity ward at the Provincial Hospital.

Towards the end of the financial year the museum has a special group that will launch a new environmental project for the town on 22 April. Various meetings were held to discuss actions for this new project.

The museum hosted a fundraising initiative by selling pancakes on 28 March. Ivor Naude and other members of the community assisted the museum by making pancakes and donating some ingredients. The amount of R6 128.00 was collected through pancake sales.

Throughout the year the museum received numerous donation in the form of clothes and shoes. The museum distributed it to areas where there is great need.

2.5.3 EDUCATION

The museum launched its Edu Cases project in April whereby vintage suitcases are collected as part of a new educational initiative. We are so thankful to our community who supported us in our EDU CASES educational project by donated vintage school cases and we are excited to report that we have enough school cases to start our project.

The Museum's anti-bullying campaign officially kicked off on 17 April 2024 and extended into May month. The museum's program took place in partnership with Ceres SAPS and ACVV. Various schools that was part of the campaign were Bella Vista Primary, Mooi Uitsig Primer, Ceres Secondary School, Bella vista High school Achtertuin and Ezelfontein Primary schools. SAPS explained that seriously bullying can turn into a criminal offense. The program further looked at what bullying is not, discusses behavior, how it can be handled, but it also looks at why some learners choose these behaviors and what the emotional profile is of someone who bullies. Presenters of the programs were Candice Muller and Rudowaan du Toit of the Museum. During December 2024 the program was presented to Agter Witzenberg Primary school and Die Eike Primary school.

The museum created an educational information file on Settlements for Gr 8 learners for the month of July.

The museum assisted several Grade 8 and Grade 9 learners with their school assignments on Apartheid legislation and settlements. Additional community interviews on the forced removals were uploaded to the museum's YouTube channel, providing learners with valuable resources for their assignments.

Grade 4 learners from Koue Bokkeveld Primary School visited the museum on 8 August with Transportation as the main theme. It's always a pleasure to welcome our local learners. Presenter: Rudowaan du Toit

On 7 August pre-schoolers from Bella Vista visited the museum and had a great time coloring and exploring the exhibits.

In September 2024 the museum was visited by the Gr 4 learners of Petra Primary Gedenkskool, Breederiver for a tour and educational program.

The museum updated its Classroom Hub page on the website to support local history assignments. A link to the updated page was shared on social media.

An invitation was shared on social media, encouraging schools to visit the museum for the local history program. Various learners and parents were assisted with their Term 1 local history school assignments at primary schools. Local schools were visited for the local history program the museum present as part of the Term 1 Local History lessons. A total of 600 learners were reached with our program.

The following schools participated in the educational programs of the museum:

CERES PRIMARY SCHOOL, EZELFONTEIN FARM SCHOOL, MOOI UITSIG PRIMARY SCHOOL MORRISDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL, FD CONRADIE PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELLA-VISTA PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NDULI PRIMARY SCHOOL, ACHTERTUIN, KOUÉ BOKKEVELD PRIMARY SCHOOL, CERES SECONDARY SCHOOL,

2.5.4 OUTREACH

The museum proudly participated in Perdekraal East Windfarm's Career Day at Bella Vista during October. Skurweberg Secondary School, Bella Vista High School, Ceres Secondary School and lingcinga Zethu Secondary School attended this event and had the opportunity to learn more about career paths and get firsthand information. Rudowaan MJ Du Toit, EPWP beneficiary and McNeil Snyman, tourism intern represented the museum. We are thankful for the opportunity our personnel had to share their working experiences with youth who might be interested in a career in the tourism or heritage sector.

The museum engaged with the elderly at Huis Peter Strauss each Wednesday with a book reading program. On Wednesday, 26 February, the residents of Huis PJ Strauss had the opportunity to enjoy the film *Fiela se kind*. *Fiela se kind* was read to residents during the year and there was great excitement to see the story come to life on screen.

Environmental and Cultural Outreach Tours

The following groups participated in the museum's Environmental and Cultural Tours in partnership with Ceres Tourism.

Bella Vista Primary school, Morrisdale Primary school, Kalos Farming, Mooi Uitsig Primary school, Belgium educators from the WIGO Gemeentelijke basisschool, Wangenella Primary School, the Witzenberg Junior Youth Council and Ezelfontein Primary school,

2.5.5 COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

EXHIBITIONS:

The following monthly exhibitions were presented for the year:

- Vintage schoolcases
- Hidden treasures of Ceres
- Raskin & Co Ginger bottle
- Milne-Shaw seismograph (online)
- Trowel
- Date stamp used at the local trainstation

Two travelling exhibitions featured at the museum

- PUSHING THE BOUDRIES OF SCIENCE: The first transplant and beyond.
- My Name is February

Online exhibition added to the website:

- History of the Koekedouw Dam

The following were added during the year on the Museum YouTube channel:

- Recordings of Stanley Smith on his recollection of businesses during the 1950's in Ceres. This forms part of the museum's oral history initiatives.
- An interview of Lena Baron, experiencing the earthquake of 1969,
- Interviews of two residents on their experiences of the forced removals
- Interviews with Mr Alexander Volkwyn and Joseph Stynder, both principals and vice-principals at Fred Gaum Secondary school. These interviews were conducted during the school reunion. This is part of the museum's oral history projects.
- The museum hosted the online exhibition MY NAME IS FEBRUARY via our YouTube channel for Human Rights Day.
- The short documentary, "Runaways, Resistance and Revolution- Resistance to Slavery at the Cape of Good Hope", was created by Paul Weinberg and Grant Parker to tell the story of slave resistance at the Cape. An excerpt that presents details of the Koue Bokkeveld Uprising of 1825 was added to the museum's YouTube Channel and website

The museum created a QR code pertaining to the Story of the Transport Rider. This QR code will direct the person to the museum website where the information on the transport rider is found. The code is now in the museum for scanning and was shared on social media.

The Friends of the museum sponsored a new earthquake banner, which will be used as marketing and be presented at various areas in town. We want to thank the Association for their contribution.

COLLECTION:

The following objects were accessioned during the year:

- 42 photos of main street during the early 1990's
- Fragments of glass and porcelain donated by Mr. Mark Beswick
- Bandolier, bag and photo donated by Mr. Francois Nel
- CBI Finalist of the Year Certificate, Framed news article (Chambers of Commerce 50 years), minutes and Congratulations card donated by CBI.
- 4 old newsletters, booklet and invitation

- *The visitors book from 1937 -1969 for the Hamlet hotel has been digitized by McNeil Snyman. This information is now available to researchers.*
- *A wooden stamp box.*
- *Shofar, used on the high holy days in the Ceres Synagogue and used for the last "time on Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) in 1994.*
- *A flour sack was donated to the museum by Sonia Jantjies.*
- *Historic documents on the 1838 meteor fall, in English and German from the late Jerry Levin*
- *Family photo album from Vivienne Cawood from 1932*

1781 Objects were verified during the year

218 Photo's and documents were scanned

214 Photo's were taken of artifacts during the year

795 Photos were renamed on the inventory list.

There are currently 2656 objects listed on our formal inventory list of our collection.

2.5.6 MARKETING

The museum introduced a new coffee corner, a long-held dream finally realized. This charming spot will offer visitors and conference attendees the opportunity to enjoy a cup of coffee. The coffee corner adds a warm, welcoming touch to the visitor experience, allowing guests to relax and reflect on the exhibits over a cup of coffee. Alongside this addition, the museum's reception area has been upgraded to enhance the overall aesthetic and functionality, further improving the guest experience. A loyalty card is available to users that often will buy coffee. The museum printed new Ceres stickers for the museum shop.

During the museum symposium in December the museum received a award for most visitors for 2023/24. This is due to the many unique online users on social media the museum attracts with its continuous online presence.

Press release on the 1825 Koue Bokkeveld Uprising Project was published in the newspaper and on social media platforms.

The manager was invited as guest speaker at the Ceres Business Initiative AGM. The topic: Our present determines our future

We once again were privilege to be part of NAMPO KAAP/CAPE from 11 -14 September, represented by Rudowaan du Toit. It was a busy 3 days for Rudowaan, marketing and create awareness of and for the museum. More than 4 000 people visited the museum tent.

The following postings were done on Social Media (Facebook and Instagram):

- Posted various postings in the Ceres'ly Positive group
- All events and news of the museum on the FB Page and Instagram profile
- Continue with postings on the Pages Ceres van Gister en Eergister, Museum Page
- Excursion of Friends of museum on their FB Page
- Articles in the local newspaper on the following: Donation Drive, Lions Fundraising, Museum events, Klara Majola unveiling, Friends AGM, Slave Uprise, Poetry competition for Art Festival, Art Workshops, Art Festival Program, Movie Fridays, Friends excursions, new webpage on Jewish history, 16 Days of Activism, Book reading at HPS, Movie marathon in December holiday, Wedding photos online exhibition.

2.6 COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY STRUCTURES DURING THE YEAR TO ADVANCE OR SUPPORT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Partnerships are very important for the continuing of services to the community and therefore it's of great importance that the museum continues forging new partnerships.

The museum has a very good working relationship with the Local Municipality.

The museum is also in partnership with the department of Social Development where they present special programmes at the museum and they also make use of the conference facility on a regular basis.

Other partners are Witzenberg Municipality, the local tourism bureau, local newspaper, Service Centres, schools, South African Museum Association, Ceres Business Initiative (CBI), Witzenberg Association for People with disabilities, The Friends of the Museum, local radio station, ATKV and the community, NORSA, The museum entered into a new partnership with the Warm Bokkeveld Correctional Facility during 2024..

2.8 RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON REPORT OF THE PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR/S (WHERE APPLICABLE)

The museum's financial statements for 2023/25 was audited during July 2024.

The following point has been raised in the Audit report:

PART 3: HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

3.1 OVERVIEW

Number of permanent DCAS employees: 2

Mrs B Laubscher – Manager

Mrs A Dunn - Cleaner Level 3

Ms P van Rooi – EPWP beneficiary – Audit and Digitization

Mr R du Toit -EPWP beneficiary – Maintenance

Ms C Muller – EPWP beneficiary -Heritage and Tourism (resigned in July 2024)

Mrs L Pieterse – EPWP beneficiary- Heritage and Tourism (July – March 2025)

McNeil Snyman, Tourism intern, was placed for 6 months at the museum to do his practical.

3.1.2 Employment equity

	MEN					WOMEN					TOTAL
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Foreign	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Foreign	
Permanent							x		x		2
Contract							x				1
Contract							x				1
Contract		X									1
TOTAL											5

3.1.3 Staff composition by occupational categories

	MEN					WOMEN					TOTAL
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Foreign	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Foreign	
Managerial									x		1
Human Scientist											
Natural Scientist											
Technical staff											
Support/administrative							X x x x				4
Permanent							X		x		2
Temporary		x					X x				3
TOTAL											5

3.1.4 Employment changes:

Ms Candice Muller left the museum after she obtained a permanent position. Lugaille Pieterse was appointed as new EPWP beneficiary in her place during July 2024.

3.1.5 Evaluation or assessment

Regular staff meetings took place between Mrs. Laubscher and the rest of the personnel. Before each review evaluation of the work done during the quarter has been discussed.

3.1.6 Skills development and Training of staff members

The following training initiative took place:

- Manager attended a digital archiving online session on 6 May, hosted by the Cape Archive.
 - Rudowaan du Toit attended a five-day Events Support Assistance course presented by G & D Training from 3 June to 7 June.
 - On the 5th of June Petrolene and the manager attended an online training session on the Audit of the collection procedures and 12th of June Petrolene attended an online session on the SAHRIS process
 - Petrolene attended a two day workshop by DCAS on the handling, photographing and cleaning of a collection. She also attended the online sessions on Collections Management: How to conduct Audit of collection and The SAHRIS process
 - Manager and Lugaille attended MSID online training presented by the Mr M Janse van Rensburg on 28 August.
 - Anneline Dunn, Lugaille Pieterse and Bertdene Laubscher attended the online session on “Coping with anxiety and depression at work and at home” 28 August.
 - McNeil Snyman and Lugaille Pieterse attended a two-day First Aid level 1 course presented by Safetech on 27 and 30 September.
 - Petrolene had a training session on 12 September 2024 with ICOM-CC Community Led Training Solidarity Project about Risk Assessment.
 - Rudowaan du Toit attended the Breede River Museum regional Educational Workshop in partnership with WCED at Worcester museum on 7 November.
 - Manager and Mr R du Toit attended an online workshop of Creating and Editing educational museum TikToks.
 - Manager attended the Museum Symposium from 3-6 December.
 - Manager attended a Personal Digital Archiving webinar on January 9th how to preserve cherished digital memories by Northeast Document Conservation Center.
 - Rudowaan du Toit attended the Safety Rep course on 17/01/2025
 - On Wednesday, 12 February, Rudowaan du Toit, attended an educational workshop in Wellington to discuss the future of education in the Western Cape affiliated museums
- Online training sessions were attended: Managing employee absence and abscondment, Province aided museum connectivity implementation session

We are grateful for the wonderful opportunity that Petrolene van Rooi, had to attend the 88th SAMA National Conference in Bloemfontein from 2-6 September. This opportunity is made possible by a sponsorship from The Forgotten Highway: Ancestral Journeys initiative, driven by Prof. Doreen Atkinson. The purpose of the Route is to awaken the historical awareness of local communities along the Route, helping them to realize the uniqueness of their environment. Additionally, it will allow other South Africans to explore the paths their ancestors traveled, while foreign visitors can join in celebrating the historical significance of these remarkable events.

Various sessions have covered topics such as Conservation, Representation, Collection Management, Digitisation and Digital Transformation on a Budget, the Future of Museum.

3.1.7 Meetings

The following meetings were attended by the museum personnel:

Board or Trustees:6
Personnel meeting:11
Museum Symposium 1
Environmental project: 4
Educators meeting:4

Tollhouse meeting:1
Friends of the Museum 5
SAMA dialogue session:2
KB commemoration: 9
Ceres Festival 6

3.1.8 Risk Management

No break-inns were reported during the year.

3.2 STAFF EXPENDITURE

3.2.1 Salaries and allowances/ Other staff costs

Mrs Laubscher:

Travel & Subsistence	R 5260
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Personnel

Weekend work and bonusses	R 3 000
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3.3 ADDITIONAL HUMAN RESOURCES

Nothing to report.

3.4 FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

- The friends of the museum presented an environmental based excursion with Johann van Biljon as speaker.
- Several areas in town were visited and the tour concluded at the recycling plant of the Witzenberg Municipality.
- Friends of the museum had their AGM on 25 July with Peter Greeff as speaker of the evening. 31 members attended the event.
- Friends of the museum ended their last outing of the year during September on a high note with their visit to Ouplaas, Witzenberg Valley.
- A clean-up at Lover's Bridge took place by the Friends of the museum on 13 September and 15 November
- The Friends of the Togryers Museum Association hosted a delightful Italian evening during October, as part of their annual fundraiser. Italian food, music, and great company made for a winning recipe for the night.
- The Friends of the museum undertook a walk on the historic Witzenberg pass in October.
- The Friends of the Museum organized a visit to the quarry located in the Ceres Nature Reserve.
- A small group of the Friends of the museum visited the Welling Museum on 22 February.

4.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MUSEUM

It was a busy year for the Museum and we are thankful that we could have presented projects that made a difference in the community. I wish to thank the museum staff, volunteers, board members, and all stakeholders for their contribution over the past year. Their commitment to the vision and objectives of the museum has been invaluable.

We look forward to continuing our work in the year ahead. The Museum was active on many different platforms and fulfilled its objectives set out in the Strategic plan of the museum as reflected in the report.

Im expressing my gratitude towards my Board of Trustees who allow me to engage in and developed projects that serve the community and who supported me and attended the meetings and engaged in discussions to ensure that that the Museum is a place for all !

A special word of appreciation to the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport for our annual subsidy.

A sincere word of gratitude towards the museum personnel for their hard work and efforts to make sure the Museum is fully functional every day of the week.

Without the constant support from our community we can not reach our goals and we are thankful for each and every one that made a donation or supported us in many other ways.

It's a honour to serve the community of Ceres and surrounding areas and we will not cease to strive for excellence in meeting their needs and promote an inclusive environment for all.

B Laubscher
Museum manager