

## Newsletter 20.6.

From Horst Kleinschmidt and Kenneth Makatees

For your attention and action!

6 August 2014.

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This might have been the house of the farmer Lodewyk Botma, known as a friend of the missionaries. This ruin is in proximity to the graveyard where we plan to hold a short memorial service. Here Anna Makatees is looking out of one window on Sunday 3 August, 2014.

Dear relations and friends,

In seven weeks time we shall be in Komaggas. Kenneth and I returned from Komaggas ten days ago and we are most grateful for the buzz of activity taking place to host us at the end of September.

Right now, we need your help!

1. It would be most appreciated if you could pay for your accommodation and meals, in advance, into the following account:

HGH Kleinschmidt  
ABSA Bank  
Branch: Heerengracht  
Branch Number: 506-009  
Swift Code: **ABSAZAJJ**.  
Account number: **929 763 4398**

Mark the account 'Komaggas'. Where it gives you the inform option, enter:  
[makateesk@sabc.co.za](mailto:makateesk@sabc.co.za).

When making the transfer please ensure that the charges are for your account.

We opened this account solely for our gathering. The purpose is threefold:

- There are no ATM's or credit card facilities in Komaggas.

- The nearest Banks are an hour away, along a road no one should negotiate at night because of sharp bends and stray animals.
- The food committee does not have the ready cash to lay out for the purchase of the produce for our meals.

We'd be very grateful if you could affect the payment before the end of August.

How much money will it cost?

### 1. Accommodation.

It has been agreed that the cost per bed per night is R150.00. BUT: We need to ask if those of you who are able to, if you would please make payment of R250.00 for your bed per night. The reason is that we have to accommodate several guests for whom the cost of R150.00 p/p/p/n is too much to pay.

After long discussions with those who offer us accommodation, it is important that everyone is paid the same for the bed(s) they offer.

If you are able thus to pay the higher level of R250.00 per night we can then, through the account, allocate the money equally between our hosts. By paying the money into above account, no one will know who was subsidised and who did the subsidising. This is the best way to ensure everyone enjoys equal status.

If there is a surplus we will divide what remains equally between the hosts. If there is a shortfall perhaps a collection during the gathering would be in order.

Your help is appreciated also because we want to provide free accommodation and food to the Khoi Reël dance group and the Choirs who come to Komaggas by bus. They may total 120 – 150 individuals. To the extent that most of them will be accommodated in the Old Pastorie on mattresses, the cost is mainly for the accommodation of their seniors. Kenneth and Johan have been able to raise funds for their respective bus journeys, hundreds of kilometres away from Komaggas. They come from places where the Schmelen couple conducted services, places like Koeboes, Pella, Bitterfontein and Knersvlakte. Some invited guests will also not be charged.

### 2. Meals.

In consultation with the local catering group we have agreed that breakfast is charged at R50 per meal with lunch and supper each at R75 per meal. This includes soft drinks with meals.

On the assumption that our first local meal is dinner on Friday night and that our last meal is breakfast on Tuesday morning, you will be getting 11 meals in all. Based on the above you will receive 4 x Breakfasts, 3x lunches and 4 x suppers. Your total food bill is thus: R750.00. (Unless you choose to eat only 2 meals per day)

### 3. Cost.

Option A: 4 nights accommodation @ R600 + meals R750 = R1,350.00.

Option B: 4 nights accommodation @ R250 + meals R750 = R1,750.00.

If anyone finds it difficult to pay the minimum amount, please pay what you are able to pay.

#### 4. What accommodation?

Please will you provide us soonest with your preferred needs for your accommodation: Please write to us and stipulate: Single Room, Double Room, and if you have a young child, a triple Room.

Those offering accommodation in their homes have been asked to provide a freshly made up bed, a towel and a small bottle of potable water per night. Your bed will also be made up in the morning. You will be provided with bathroom facilities with hot and cold water and a flush toilet, but water is scarce and the reticulation system of Komaggas will be under pressure whilst we are there. Local organisers have and will speak once again with the municipal authorities to ensure that the reservoir is not allowed to run dry.

Breakfast will be served at the hall where we meet.

#### 5. Vegetarian or other special needs?

If you are vegetarian or have any other dietary requirements please will you write to us. The menu will provide a vegetarian option per meal, but we need to know how many vegetarians we will be in total.

#### 6. At the Community Hall:

We have asked locals to provide snacks and drinks in between meals on a cash basis Trinkets or memento's are also likely to be sold at the hall.

At night there will be a campfire outside the hall at which socialising can continue after the meals.

Inside the hall we hope to put up exhibits related to the purpose of our gathering.

#### 7. Pictures or Photos:

We will arrange for a group photograph at a point during the programme.

May we also remind you to please bring along pictures of historical interest and photographs of your family and ancestors so they can be exhibited in the hall.

#### 8. The Schmelen Nama Bible.

It seems now that the National Library does not allow historic documents outside of its buildings. Our hope that the Schmelen Nama Bible would be displayed in Komaggas can therefore not be realised. Instead, those who start the journey in Cape Town, will be able to have a special viewing of the Bible and related documents on Wednesday afternoon, 17<sup>th</sup> September.

We are trying to persuade the library authorities in South Africa to arrange for a showing at the Windhoek National Archive later in the year so that those travelling from Namibia can have the chance to page through this 183-year-old document.

#### 9. Getting from Cape Town to Komaggas:

Although we hoped the road works along the N7 (specifically between Citrusdal and Klawer) would be over by the time of our visit, this is clearly not the case. There are numerous Stop/Go arrangements in place that can add up to two hours to the 650km journey.

We think this is added reason why the journey should be planned over a two-day period. From Cape Town this would mean leaving on Thursday morning 18<sup>th</sup> September. She is a direct descendent of Zara's in the 7th generation after Zara.

#### 10. A commemorative service at Zara's burial site:

If we leave Cape Town on the 18<sup>th</sup> not later than 9am, we could be at the Heuning Berg farm where the cluster of graves are, before 12 noon. Here we propose to hold a short commemorative service, lead by Olle Eriksson from Finland with a Bible reading from Hebrews by Kenneth and Valda's daughter Anna. She is nine years old and will read the same text that missionary Zahn read at Zara's funeral in 1831.

The gravesite is not on the direct route north and adds some 150 km to our overall journey.

Kenneth and I have negotiated with the local farmer so we may gather on the farm where Lodewyk Botma received missionaries when they travelled north or returned south 200 years ago.

At this stage there may be as many as 45 people in 15 vehicles travelling up from Cape Town. We regret very much that this arrangement does not cater for those travelling from Namibia and is probably too far even for Komaggassers to travel south for.

Details of how to get to the Heuning Berg will be provided.

From Heuning Berg we propose that we travel to the coast to Lamberts Bay where we overnight. You need to book your own accommodation here. Look the place up on the Internet – there are a large variety of places where to overnight.

We will book for us all to have dinner at a beach restaurant known as Muisboskerm where we can enjoy a unique evening on the beach. The place specialises in fish dishes grilled in front of you. Vegetarians are catered for – we are told. Sunset over the Atlantic should add to the atmosphere.

The next morning we proceed to Komaggas by re-joining the N7 at Klawer. In this way we escape the section where the road works take place. Before setting off, and time permitting, you might visit Bird Island across the Lamberts Bay harbour. The colony of gannets is worth a visit.

We will provide a map or description later.

11. Our aim on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> is to head for Steinkopf, an hours drive north of Springbok. Here the Rev Leeuw will receive us. This is the place where Zara's parents lived. It used to be known as Kookfontein but Hinrich Schmelen renamed it after his religious mentor who took him under his wings when he first arrived in London in 1804 to evade conscription into Napoleon's army. Steinkopf has a church very similar to the one at Komaggas. The Steinkopf church was built with stone. The Komaggas church was built with mud bricks that did not survive the rains, the reason it is a ruin today.

From Steinkopf we need to get to Komaggas before dark, where we will be welcomed at the Hall and where we will get a warm meal and then be taken to our respective places of accommodation.

Those of you arriving by bus from Namibia need to let us know how many you are who need transport from Springbok to Komaggas. You will be collected in Springbok but you need to let us know what time the bus is scheduled to arrive.

A draft programme for the three days in Komaggas will follow shortly.

Please will each of you provide us with responses to each of the points above? Given the huge numbers we now have coming, we need to get a little more bureaucratic in running the event.



Anna Makatees, the intrepid adventurer, in the Zara Schmelen graveyard at the Heuning Berg, 3 August 2014.

We anticipate and look forward to your detailed replies.

Yours,

Horst & Kenneth.

