

## Newsletter 30.

Call to support District 6 petition and walk;  
Komaggas/Bontekoe – mining deaths of 2012 revisited;  
In memory and celebration of Brian Bishop;  
List of people apartheid kept files on;  
Grønlands linguist, Marcus Kleinschmidt.

September 2016.

Dear friends,

In my series of Newsletters, this one is in the form of five newly posted items on my website. I hope you'll visit the website and find the new items of interest. These are the new items on the title page:

1. It is exactly **50 years since 60,000 people were forcibly removed** from inner Cape Town and taken to different 'locations' on the Cape Flats. District 6 (D6) in Cape Town and Sophiatown in Johannesburg are the most potent reminders of the violent past that impacted us all, and most devastatingly, those decreed to be brown or black. From 1960 until 1983, 3.5 million people were forcibly moved – one of the large displacements in modern history.

Half a century has passed and District 6 residents still gather on special occasions, travelling long distances. They also meet to protest, because it will soon be 25 years under our new political dispensation who promised restitution and restoration, but have massively failed the majority of those treated unjustly. The absence of political will, poor implementation of policies, fiscal constraints and resistance by those who benefitted from apartheid, has thwarted the noble initial intentions. Despite this challenges from those disadvantaged have new impetus in our current political discourse.

The D6 land earmarked for restitution was assessed as **150 hectares** in 1994, but elite developments have **reduced** the land to **42 hectares**. More developments are in the pipeline.

If D6 was declared a National Heritage Site, further encroachment would have to stop and an appropriate and inclusive planning would stand a chance. This cannot happen under the constant threat of further land encroachment.

Shahied Ajam, director of the District Six Working Committee, points out that “the

social evils affecting our people today can be attributed to the apartheid legacy, where gangs and drugs are a direct result of people being dispossessed”.

**I SUPPORT THE CALL TO HAVE THE REMAINING LAND (28%) DECLARED A NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE. IT STOPS FURTHER ALIENATION OF THIS LAND TO PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT. PLEASE SIGN THE ASSOCIATED PETITION (OPEN UNTIL END OCTOBER) - AND IF YOU ARE IN CAPE TOWN, COME ALONG NEXT SATURDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER AND SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE WANTING JUSTICE!** Find more details on my website.

To sign the petition:

<http://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/save-the-last-remaining-district-6-land-from-alien-building-developments>.

2. Our family connection to Komaggas in the Northern Cape is well known through my Newsletter series. Komaggas is also the victim of land dispossession. This came to a head in the 1920's when diamonds were found on their coastal winter pastures and the de Beers Diamond Mining Company erected an impenetrable north-south fence inland from the coast through most of the Northern Cape. The community economies were destroyed and no compensation ever considered. Diamond digging, also 'illegal' digging, remains a prominent feature that affects communities adjacent to this infamous fence.

On the title page of my website you have access to five concise, well-researched and well-written articles by independent journalist Kimon de Greef. I urge you to read these and to remember that here is another unhealed wound from our past. The de Greef articles first appeared in the excellent online publication GroundUp.

3. Brian Bishop was killed in 1985 in a car accident on the road between Oudtshoorn and Port Elizabeth. The cause of the accident has never been uncovered but the finger points to the Security Police (SB) who tampered with the brakes of their car the night before. Also killed in the accident was Molly Blackburn another prominent anti-apartheid activist associated with the courageous Black Sash organization. Molly's sister and Di Oliver, (Di was married to Brian), were injured in the accident. Many of you will know Di. She was with us in 2014 during the family gathering in Komaggas. It turns out that her sister Pat is married to my cousin Eike Grunwald. Di's commitment to social justice is undiminished.

Earlier this year the state awarded Brian Bishop the Order of Luthuli (Silver) for his "excellent contribution to the liberation struggle". To make such honour real in our society and because Brian was from Cape Town, it seemed just natural that we, the community he worked amongst, should celebrate Brian's life once more and at this juncture. A beautiful occasion brought together some 70 people. Speaking in memory of Brian included Mamphela Ramphele, Nosizwe Mgudlwa, Fr. P-J Pearson, Emeritus Bishop Paul Verryn and myself.

See pictures and tributes on the website.

4. Also on my website find the list of the 8,000-odd people the apartheid state admitted to keeping files on. I appear as state enemy number 3341.

5. See (on the web site) Grønlands postage stamp with the face of one Samuel Kleinschmidt depicted on it. In the 19th century he was instrumental in having the Grønlandic language committed to a formal grammar. He did this to spread the Christian gospel.

We have no idea whether he is related to us - but its an interesting oddity to take note of.

See other snippets and images on the web site.

I hope you find the above of interest. As always, your comments are most welcome.

Yours,

Horst

PS: On 20 August I was invited to the Cape Town Family History Society to make a presentation about our family history. Shortly I will make a similar presentation at the Good Hope Seminary High School - in celebration of Heritage Month. In November I will make yet another presentation on our family history at an event organized by the South African Restitution Foundation.