

Hoggie Viljoen



Niks. Dor. Dis die gedagtes van dié wat voortsnel op die weg deur die Karoo. Inteendeel - noulettendes sien fonteine, hartjiesgras en kapokbossies, boere, diere, mense. Kniel neer en kyk fyn - dis Karoo.

Hoggie Viljoen











Encounter with Hoggie Viljoen

In 2004, when I acquired the property in Richmond which is now the domicile of Map — South Africa Richmond, I was not fully aware of the journey that would lie ahead. During various Artist's Residencies and Interventions this small village that seemed to be no more than a "charming stopover" revealed the complexities of an isolated community with a real urge for sustainability and development.

Many dedicated individuals crossed our path, none more so than Hoggie Viljoen. He embodied the true spirit of Ubuntu that many a people in the Karoo possessed and that will continue to positively impact on this unique and fragile environment.

Three years after acquiring Lot 637 in Pienaar Street I was approached by Viljoen. He asked if he could use our vacant plot across the street from his home as a vegetable garden. He also wanted to grow flowers against the far wall to hide the decaying structure. We had a vision to incorporate the adjacent "2010 Reasons to Live in a Small Town - Square" and re-establish the Karoo veld on a "dorpserf": suggesting the possibility of restoring the veld and lighten the imprint of man.



After sharing this with Viljoen I assured him though that he could use the plot as I was not that often in Richmond. What I encountered one year later is what is reflected in this booklet. Viljoen identified 21 indigenous plant species and painstakingly marked them with information applicable to each plant written on disposable plastic bottles.

We will strive to keep his initiative alive and maintain this lot as an example of a true conscious spirit.

Harrie Siertsema

The following example taken from one plastic bottle illustrates the painstaking detail written on each bottle with a black marker:

- TER (maksimum) 5 sterre (smaak vir diere) ***
- Naam: Klitsgras (Wet. Nm.: Setanaverticilla)
- Beweidingswaarde 1.16 (voedingswaarde uit 10)
- Nadeel: Die saad sit aan die skape se wol vas en verminder die waarde van die wol

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