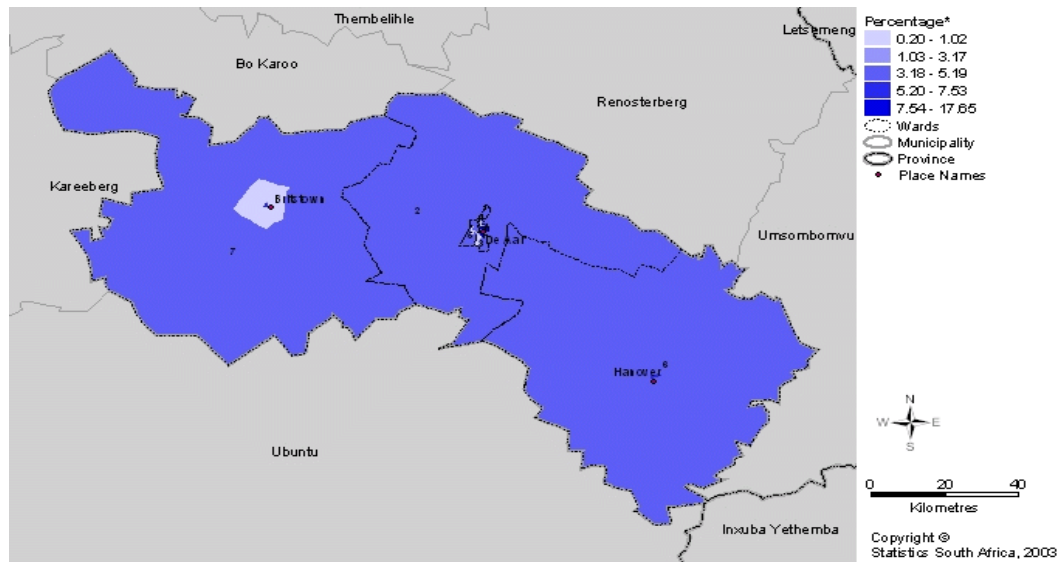


EMTHANJENI MUNICIPALITY

ECONOMIC PROFILE



Emthanjani Municipality

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Emthanjeni Municipality

Economic Profile – 2006

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EMTHANJENI MUNICIPALITY

PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT



ECONOMIC PROFILE

1. Executive Summary

The municipality derives its mandate from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and receives its framework from the Municipal Structures Act (33/2000) and Municipal Systems Act (32/2000). Local Government is tasked with the responsibility to ensure development of local areas and human resources which is critical for achieving acceptable economic growth in Emthanjeni Municipality.

One of the objects of Local Government enunciated in the Constitution of the Republic of SA is the “promotion of social and economic development”. The White Paper on Local Government supports this objective by introducing the concept of “developmental local government”. This is defined as “local government committed to working with citizens and groups within the community to find sustainable ways to meet their social, economic and material needs and improve the quality of their lives”.

Municipalities, according to the Department of Provincial and Local Government, can promote Local Economic Development in their areas in a number of different ways and, in most cases, through the following combination of mechanisms:

- a) Coordinating LED functions and initiatives within the IDP (Integrated Development Plan) and all municipal programmes, as well as linking it to provincial and national initiatives.
- b) Facilitating investment by improving the economic development process or improving planning procedures and regulations.
- c) Stimulating local business creation and/or expansion by improving particular themes or activities, brochures or the provision of specific incentives.
- d) Acting as developer or entrepreneur by taking full or joint venture responsibility for operating a business enterprise.

Vision of Municipality

A humane and caring society living in a healthy and secure environment, conducive to sustainable Economic Development.

Mission of Municipality

To deliver quality services and promote development in our municipal area in a non-sexist, non-racial and non-discriminating manner. We do this by creating a climate of co-operative governance with meaningful partnerships with all the stakeholders in the municipal area, especially the members of the general public.

Corporate Culture and Value System of Municipality

- Driven by the aspirations of our people, we will respect and uphold the constitution of the Republic of South Africa and , to this end, observe human rights and participate in co-operative governance
- We subscribe to the principles of Batho Pele and total quality management
- We commit ourselves to the Codes of Conduct for councillors and officials in the Municipal Systems Act and to the principles of sound financial management
- We believe in integrity in the relations with all our stakeholders
- We commit ourselves to a corruption free and transparent municipality
- We endorse a “people-driven” approach and, to this end, commit ourselves to ensuring public participation in local government
- We commit ourselves to promote racial, gender and all other forms of equality and to empower all people in the municipality
- We regard the personnel of our municipality as our most important resource
- We will respect the views and inputs of all stakeholders

1.1 Overview

In the year 2000 we saw the disestablishment of three Transitional Local Municipalities (De Aar, Britstown, Hanover), this then allowed for the establishment of Emthanjeni Municipality. The three mentioned not were brought together with all the different attributions of the areas in regards to all sectors of the economy.

1.1.1 Location

Emthanjeni Municipality (specifically De Aar), is renowned for its central location on the main railway line between Johannesburg, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Namibia. Regional roads link the different towns in our jurisdiction which allows access to the seat (De Aar) of the municipality. De Aar is also the headquarters of Pixley ka Seme District Municipality and Regional Government Departments are also situated in the area.

De Aar is situated in the Northern Cape Province, approximately 300km south west of Kimberley, 440km south east of Upington, 300km north east of Beaufort-West and 315km south west of Bloemfontein. The towns of Emthanjeni Municipality lie in an extensive stock farming area with the emphasis on sheep, mutton and wool (especially Merinos). Hanover lies approximately 65km east of De Aar on the N1 (national road), Britstown is situated about 55km west of De Aar on the N12 (national road). Both these main routes link Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Distances from major centers in South Africa:

Johannesburg	750km
Pretoria	810km
Cape Town	748km

Bloemfontein 315km
 Port Elizabeth 502km

1.1.2 Emthanjeni Municipal Council Structure

The Municipality is politically managed by a Council of 14 councillors of which 7 are ward councillors and 7 are proportionally appointed. The Council further has an Executive Committee System as per the Municipal Structures Act (33/2000) – this means that the Municipality functions with an Executive Committee (Meeting monthly), Council (Meeting quarterly) and Special Council Meetings are convened for urgent matters.

The following table reflects the composition of Council:

No	Councillor	Position	Party
1	Boy K Markman	Mayor - Proportional	ANC
2	Emmerentia P Eksteen	Speaker - Proportional	ANC
3	Patrick H van Staden	Ward (1) Councillor	ANC
4	Nomvuyo S Thomas	Ward (2) Councillor	ANC
5	Gladwell L Nkumbi	Ward (3) Councillor	ANC
6	Cornelius Koopman	Ward (4) Councillor	ANC
7	Maureen Malherbe	Ward (5) Councillor	DA
8	Sipho T Sthonga	Ward (6) Councillor	ANC
9	Godfrey I Nyl	Ward (7) Councillor	ANC
10	Sarah Max	Proportional	ANC
11	Bennie Swanepoel	Proportional	ID
12	Auburn F Jaftha	Proportional	ID
13	Jessica Louw	Proportional	DA
14	Jacobus J Oberholzer	Proportional	DA

The following Council Committees have been established:

Committees	Chairperson	Committee Members
Executive Committee	BK Markman - Mayor	GL Nyl AF Jaftha
Social Services	S Max	C Koopman JJ Oberholzer
Local Labour Forum	ST Sthonga	GL Nyl, C Koopman S Max, NS Thomas B Swanepoel
Infrastructure and Economic Development	ST Sthonga	GL Nyl M Malherbe
Youth Matters	NS Thomas	GL Nkumbi J Louw
Sports, Arts, Culture & Recreation	GL Nkumbi	GL Nyl B Swanepoel
Rules	BK Markman - Mayor	GL Nyl, C Koopman

2. Socio – Economic Profile

According to the National Population Unit of the Department of Social Development, 2000, strategic interventions to combat the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in South Africa are the eradication of poverty and accelerated socio-economic development. This implies that LED should be sustainable and successfully implemented by a committed Municipality and relevant stakeholders so as to create job opportunities within the local economy and to start uplifting the livelihoods of poor and marginalized communities which will in turn help eradicate the prevalence of AIDS. It then requires that the main sectors of the economy of Emthanjeni should be developed properly.

2.1 District Wide Population

It is always correct to consider the situation from the perspective of the district; this should allow us to look at the potential of a particular municipality in the right context.

Based on information sourced from the Municipal Profiles 2002 as contained in the IDP review:

- Estimated total population of the District is 176 297 (Census 2001).
- The average household size is 4.52%
- Emthanjeni Municipality's population is 24.6% of the district, which is the largest.
- The population density is 2.1 persons per square kilometer even though Emthanjeni and Umsobomvu municipalities have a population density of 4 persons per square kilometer.
- 46.3% of the district population is of pre-school age and high school age while 48.5% are within the economic active age category of 19-64 years.

2.2 Population of Municipality

	Black	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Total
De Aar					
Male	3543	7181	21	1637	12384
Female	4014	7766	12	1841	13635
Total	7556	14946	33	3478	26019
Britstown					
Male	400	1306	1	138	1846
Female	398	1617	2	160	2178
Total	797	2922	3	298	4024
Hanover					
Male	756	421	1	95	1274
Female	866	453	1	100	1421
Total	1621	873	2	195	2695
Emthanjeni Farms					
Male	252	971	0	249	1473

Female	184		947		0		206		1338
Total	435		1917		0		455		2811
Emthanjeni Total									
Male	4951		9897		23		2119		16977
Female	5462		10783		15		2307		18572
Total	10413		20662		38		4426		35549

(STATS SA – CENSUS 2001)

We have a total population of 35549 in Emthanjeni which constitutes 22% of the district population. The population of Emthanjeni has increased by 11% up to 2002.

Comparative Analysis of Population (Stats SA Census)

1996 - 38985
2001 - 35549
2002 - 41304

2.3 Age Categorization:

An average of 15% of the population is between 0-6 years old while 8% are 60 years old or older. A further 31% are in the school going age group of 7 to 19 years.

Categorization by Age grouping	Population Size		Total Population
	Female	Male	
0 – 19	7735	7508	15243
20 – 34	3913	3908	7821
35 – 64	5612	4754	10366
65 and above	1312	797	2109
	18572	16967	35549

Census – 2001

2.4 Employment - Category

It can be seen from the table below that approximately 56% of the total eligible workforce is unemployed. This figure does include homemakers and housewives who choose not to work and persons who cannot work due to disability or illness. If those categories are excluded the unemployment figure reduces to approximately 42% of the eligible workforce.

The economically active age group of 20 to 59 years old accounts for almost half the population (47%).

Area	Eligible workforce	Permanent Unemployed residents	Seasonal Farm workers	Domestic workers	Permanent Farm workers	Permanent Industry workers	Professional Workers
De Aar	13251	7544	63	763	105	4034	1085
Britstown	1891	1306	9	96	69	392	123
Hanover	1277	829	-	30	9	235	79
Farms	1745	435	15	352	862	1148	51
Emthanjeni Total	18164	10114	87	1241	1045	5809	1338

Employment Demographics – Census 2001

2.5 Indigents and Household Income

Household income is an important statistic, not only for the purposes of the indigent policy, but it indicates the large number of families who depend on the equitable share subsidy.

Although Emthanjeni has an unemployment rate of only 36%, household income levels are low.

Income Demographics – Census 2001 (Adapted to total HH)

Area	<400	R401-R800	R801-R1600	R1601-R3000	>R3200	Total
De Aar	1347	999	960	884	1261	5452
Britstown	259	252	255	125	97	988
Hanover	275	253	146	121	92	887
Farms	147	295	308	84	131	965
Emthanjeni total	2027	1799	1670	1214	1581	8292

3. Major Economic Sectors

Emthanjeni Municipality is one of the major contributors to the District economy, in 2000 contributing just over 25% of the GGP of the District. The following are major economic sectors of the municipality:

Community Services	36%
Transport	24%
Finance	13%
Trade	11%
Agriculture	7%
Electricity	4%
Manufacturing	3%
Construction	2%
Mining	0%

The municipality has a comparative advantage in construction, trade, transport, finance and community services with the highest comparative advantage in finance apparently

because of the concentration of banks in De Aar. Potential exists with the planned revitalization of railway junction and water canal from the Orange River.

3.1 Tourism

Tourism has become critical in boosting the economic strength of an area. The municipality also concluded that we need to explore opportunities in the municipal area and expand the existing attractions. The province has also developed and adopted a Tourism blueprint for further venture into tourism opportunities in the province and its municipalities.

Annexure A reflects the existing attractions of the municipality.

4. SWOT Analysis

4.1 Strengths

- Provincial and National Government involvement in the municipal Area
- District Municipality headquarters situated in De Aar
- Regional Government Departments located in De Aar
- National Roads/routes run through Emthanjeni municipal area
- Private sector willing to become involved
- Main railways routes run through Emthanjeni
- Existing LED projects
- District Growth and Development Strategy

4.2 Weaknesses

- IDP not fully implemented
- Limited capacity to introduce large scale projects
- Limited local funds to sustain local economic development
- High transportation costs
- Economy is not diversified
- Declining local economy
- Limited water resource
- Limited skills base
- Narrow manufacturing base

4.3 Opportunities

- Existing transport facilities
- Large labour force
- Eco- and adventure tourism
- Alternative agricultural products
- Availability of commonage land (Emerging farmer utilization)
- Revitalization of railway junction
- NIO Development Corridor
- Housing Development Projects

Expansion of existing businesses and development of new (including SMME development)
 Development of N10 Corridor (Tourism)
 Upgrading/overhauling of Airfield
 Upgrading of Nature School
 Development of industrial sites
 Renewal of Townships – tarring of roads and kerbing
 New Hospital erection
 Lucerne project
 Chemical manufacturing warehouse (Toilet paper)
 Egg farming projects
 Expanding of existing paragliding venture
 Water purification plant (WATAKA)
 Ostrich farming meat processing plant
 Expanding of existing hydroponics project (cherry farm)
 DAKAR Rally – host for 3 years

4.4 Threats

Unfavourable climatic conditions
 HIV/AIDS figures increasing
 Rising unemployment
 Unsustainable farming techniques
 Limited agricultural diversification

Care should be taken in interpreting the SWOT analysis so that issues are seen in an integrated manner. The indications in the SWOT analysis can be summarized as follows:

- a. The development of agriculture should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid concentration of the sector. In this respect, emerging farmers especially HDI's should be included and assisted.
- b. Inward investment strategy to facilitate industrialization should be implemented. This will encourage the development and expansion of local SMME's and the utilization of vacant buildings and infrastructure (especially in railway yard).
- c. The use of appropriate technology in production should be encouraged as new technology can be utilized to develop local products that can penetrate external markets and establish niche markets.
- d. The development of human resources of the municipal area is vitally important as this will increase the pool of skilled people and entrepreneurs in the municipal area.
- e. Expansion of infrastructure, especially through the Expanded Public Works Programme, should be escalated as the infrastructure supports economic development and job creation.
- f. The new developments earmarked for the area are further assurance of economic growth and ultimately job creation.

5. Development Principles

Developing an area economically depends on adopting clear principles to ensure that we achieve the necessary and acceptable levels of growth.

The following principles are vital in creating a conducive environment for the development of Emthanjeni:

- Directed economic development
- Urban-rural restructuring
- Education and skills development
- Environment conservation
- Participatory planning
- Urban services

5.1 Directed Economic Development

The effective mobilization of development resources and the utilization of opportunities offered by Emthanjeni municipal area will result in sustainable growth and the improvement of the quality of life of all communities in the area. The facilitation and the creation of new economic linkages will improve the economic interdependence between the different areas in the municipal area. This will further lead to a number of advantages, urban economies of scale, new investment and employment opportunities as well as an increase in the income potential of Emthanjeni.

An economic development forum was established for Emthanjeni municipal area with the Mayor as the driving force. The forum will meet quarterly and meetings will rotate between the three towns – De Aar, Britstown and Hanover.

Chambers of Business and NAFCOC, as well as owners of guesthouses, are to be involved in this initiative to boost economic development, address the requirements for development, attract investors, combat unemployment and garner the support of the whole community for various projects eg. reintroduction of a steam train route from De Aar.

5.2 Urban-Rural restructuring

The effective integration of the Emthanjeni with optimal consideration of the unique features of the municipal area is necessary to ensure access to development opportunities and maximization of investment choices. Furthermore, viable and effective spatial development is vitally important in the urban and rural reconstruction of the Emthanjeni's economy.

5.3 Education and Skills Development

Human resource development is crucially important for the achievement of the development goals of Emthanjeni. Successful implementation of the Local

Economic Development of the municipal area hinges on the availability of the required and necessary skills.

5.4 Environmental Conservation

It is vital that no development should deprive future generations of their resources needs by compromising the carrying capacity of the ecosystems. The South African Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) procedure provides for the integration of environmental controls into the management of projects. Conservation is based on the following principles:

- Sustainability of resource utilization.
- Unhindered continuation of vital ecological processes.
- Maintenance of bio-diversity.

5.5 Participatory Planning

The community involvement process is one of the most important elements of the Integrated Local Economic Development process of Emthanjeni, as it ensures the broadest community participation and the direction of the planning and development process towards the needs of the communities that will benefit or be influenced by the development initiatives.

5.6 Urban Services

It is of vital importance that the capacity of the infrastructure and engineering services are expanded to meet future increased demand due to growth within Emthanjeni municipal area as a whole.

6. Development Programmes

Emthanjeni Municipality has identified development programmes that represent the actions for implementation. We would be developing the following:

6.1 Focused Marketing Programme

The marketing of Emthanjeni through a Focused Marketing Strategy is of paramount importance for the future development of the municipal area as it will advertise the potential of the district to people within the area and potential investors including tourists and the local and international business people.

6.2 Small Business Support Programme (SBSP)

The importance of small business in the development of any economy cannot be overemphasized. The role of this programme is to provide a comprehensive support function for small business and thereby addressing their needs such as financing options, organizational skills development, marketing and staffing, compliance with laws and regulations.

6.3 Vocational Education and Training , Entrepreneurial Training Programme

VET and Entrepreneurial Training Programmes involve providing skills training to a large number of unemployed and poorly educated people of the municipal area to empower them so that they will become economically active and participate in and contribute to the development of the municipality.

7. Future Developments

Based on the identified development principles and programmes we have identified the following projects and attraction of possible investors for the municipal area. We can further also indicate that external projects would impact on the economy of Emthanjeni specifically based on the central location of the municipality.

7.1 Key Challenges determined through Strategic Planning

Preserving the historical buildings and attractions of the municipal area (Heritage)

Providing additional public parking

Development of focused marketing strategy

Exploring tourism potential

Upgrading of transportation (air, rail and road)

- Career Planning
- IT
- Bad Debts
- Key Priority Areas
- Overdraft
- Communication Strategy
- PMS
- Water Regulations
- Fire Brigade, Disaster Plans
- Traffic Control Fees-Burials
- Office Buildings
- Sewer network
- Tariffs
- Electricity network, maintenance plan
- Master plan – Storm-water + Streets
- Sport facilities- funders/donors
- Housing Plan
- Morales of Staff
- Middle + Lower Management capacity building
- Discipline
- Equipment – Technical
- Internal Procedures- Supply Chain
- Personnel Audit + Work-study

■ Shortage of Professional Clinic Personnel

8. Investment Incentives

As economic development is both an imperative and priority for Emthanjeni Municipality the Council introduced incentives to attract new business concerns and foreign capital to the municipal area.

The incentive is in the form of a rebate on property tax for new investors and existing businesses that will not pay rates for the first five (5) years. The businesses must at least be operational in the municipal area for 10 consecutive years and local labour must be a priority. Thereafter the rates are phased in over the next five years on the following basis:

Year 6 – 25%
Year 7 – 50%
Year 8 – 70%
Year 9 – 90%
Year 10 – 100%

(Refer to Executive Committee Resolution: 2006-05-30 of 7/2/3/4/1/8)

Annexure A.../

Emthanjeni Brief history and Tourism attractions:

DE AAR

De Aar means ‘the artery’, and in many senses this town is the lifeblood of the Karoo. It’s the head office of the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality; home too many artists, there’s an important weather station that can be toured by visitors, and it’s the second most important railway junction in the country. The significance of its situation on the railway line is because it’s central to Gauteng, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, and Namibia. There are about 110km of railway lines including 29 rail-tracks in De Aar’s precincts. However, “De Aar”, founded in 1904, was so named because of the many water-bearing arteries that occur underground. Unlike many other Karoo towns, it did not start around the Dutch Reformed Church, but in fact started around the railway line. De Aar has the largest abattoir in the Southern Hemisphere and supplies all the major centres throughout the entire country with the famous ‘Karoo’ lamb and mutton. Apart from meat production, the sheep farms around De Aar are also major suppliers of wool. All the water used in the town comes from boreholes – which is why the town is known for its large number of wind pumps. The town is easily accessible by tarred road, two airfields serve it - one is an all-weather runway that can accommodate any type of aircraft, and it’s only 52km away from the national bus route.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Emthanjeni Municipality - Voortrekker Street. Tel Ms Brenda Tyhaliti - 053 631 4176

ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS:

-
- **Ammunition Museum** - Open to public by prior arrangement. Tel 053 631 2231. This is the largest ammunition depot in the Southern Hemisphere. All ammunition training for the South African Airforce, Navy, and Army is done here. The Ammunition Museum has items ranging from empty cartridges of a .22 to massive weapons of destruction. Also on display are items from the First and Second World Wars, projectiles - cluster bombs, smoke bombs, phosphorous, armour piercing, radar-jammers, leaflet distributors, and other. There’s a small collection of Russian weaponry, and a rather dodgy-looking assortment of home made weapons, most of which are more likely to have killed the user.
- **Birding** – The Lesser Kestrel visits South Africa during summer, having flown in from Europe and Central Asia. The best place to see them is in De Aar where numbers can peak at more than 10 000 birds during December and January. (See box on Lesser Kestrels)
- **De Aar Campus** – This ten-year old campus is the first tertiary institution in the Northern Cape Karoo region. It’s a community-centred campus and its mission is to break the circle of unemployment in the region by teaching out-of-school-youth skills. They also have an eco-guest house, a restaurant run by the students, and a conference centre. Visitors are welcome to visit and will be shown around if prearranged. Tel 053 631 0594.
- **Deelfontein Cemetery with graves from the Anglo Boer War** – There’s a small railway siding in the middle of nowhere on a gravel road about 46 km south of De Aar known as Deelfontein. Although it’s just a dry, desolate place today, it’s widely known by local and overseas Anglo-Boer War and history enthusiasts as the site of a once-huge military hospital. Lord Roberts, Commander in Chief of the British Forces in South Africa chose the site. Staff recruited in January 1900 set sail for South Africa a few weeks later and the hospital was opened in March 1900. This was once the Colony’s largest surgical and convalescent hospital, and its X-ray equipment was probably some of the first that was used in a military

hospital. Today visitors may see the neat rows of 134 graves of English soldiers, most of who died of typhoid.

- **Golf Course** – De Aar Country Club is situated a little way out of town and offers the visitor an 18-hole gravel golf course with grass putting greens. Tel 053 631 3213.
- **House of Olive Schreiner** – This famous feminist and author (who wrote *Women and Labour* amongst other titles), lived in De Aar from 1907 to 1913. Today, her home is used as a restaurant. (See box on Olive Schreiner).
- **Karoo Clothing** – Visitors are welcome to visit the small factory in Philipstown Road to view or purchase clothing and other items made of springbok leather e.g. caps, bags, hunting paraphernalia, and kaross's. Telephone Sanet de Villiers on 053 631 3889 / 083 448 9087.
- **Memorial Cemetery** – In the Garden of Remembrance, British soldiers killed during the Anglo-Boer War are honoured. Situated on Philipstown Road (the R48).
- **Painters** – **Elize Jooste** studied and taught art for eight years in Windhoek, and today she has 40 students who attend her art classes for adults in De Aar. They hold an annual exhibition, usually during the first week of November. Elize's paintings – exclusively acrylics and oils – are abstracts, or realism, and nearly always dramatic, with vibrant colours. Her husband, Gert, paints boldly and produces large colourful pieces. To visit or view the artworks, telephone 053 631 3373. **Toekie Ganzevoort** is also a painter and can be visited at 45 Schreiner Street. She works mainly in acrylic and can be commissioned to produce a variety of pictures, including Karoo scenes. Telephone Toekie on 053 631 3474.
- **Paragliding** - 053 631 1555 / 082 340 0477 (See box on paragliding)
- **Sam Mooi** – lives and works in Nonzkwakazi where he has a welding business, teaches different crafts, and helps his community. Sam is a drum maker and player, and he believes drums can help stress, build up team work and help the community. As a musician, he also makes music using a blik kitaar and penny whistles, and he teaches children traditional and contemporary dance, singing, and indigenous games. His main purpose in life is to build up the culture of his people by guiding them back to their roots. (See box on Sam Mooi) To visit Sam, contact Mrs Klopper at the Municipality on telephone 053 632 9100.
- **St Paul's Anglican Church** was built in 1894 and is one of only three buildings in town with full memorial status. It was used by British soldiers during the Anglo Boer War, and has a stained glass window, commemorating them. To view the interior of the church, contact Mrs Klopper at the municipality on tel 053 632 9100.
- **Steel furniture manufacturer** - Craftsman, Broer Looek, produces lovely steel furniture, including bed headboards, high bar stools, dining room tables and chairs, and firewood stackers. He takes orders and will produce items from a sketch or photo. Visitors are welcome to visit him at 71 Voortrekker Street, or telephone 053 631 0394.
- **The Show** - The headquarters of the Central Karoo agricultural and saddlehorse show is situated in De Aar and they hold a major event during January / February each year. The show draws entries from the whole country.
- **Weather Station** – Visitors welcome. Tel 053 631 1053 for appointment. (See box on Weather Station)
- **WORM** stands for “Workshop of Recycled Matter” and is a project that was started to help clean up the area. Items that are recycled include tins, glass bottles, and wood off-cuts that become tea trays and frames for paintings. The owners' dream is that their concept has a ripple-effect, thereby helping to clean up more than just their area. For further details contact Des on tel 053 631 7002 or fax Lorette on 053 631 0933.
- **Xhosa Beadwork & Traditional Clothing - Nandipha Mphakama** makes beaded bangles, necklaces, cups, plates, handbags, ties, knobkieries, and traditional Xhosa wear. To visit Nandipha at her home in Nonzkwakazi, contact Mrs Klopper at the Municipality on telephone 053 632 9100. **Masakhane Co-operative** in Station Street in the town centre comprises a group of women who also manufacture Xhosa beadwork items and traditional clothing. Tel Valerie Mitchell on 073 502 6159.

ACCOMMODATION

- **Brandfontein Holiday and Guest Farm** – 082 570 0798.
- **De Aar Guest House** – Tel 053 631 4079 / 082 843 2547. Situated at 67 Van Zyl Street. Air-conditioning. Fridges, TV.
- **De Aar Hotel** - Friedlander Street. Tel & fax 053 631 2181. This hotel is located in the original building constructed in 1902. There are interesting stories relating to the hotel, like the fact that it was the town's first jail. Prisoners were kept under the bar, which was accessed by a trapdoor, until the authorities knew what to do with them.
- **De Lange Guest House**, 57 Church Street – Tel 053 631 4368 / 083 742 2806. All rooms have their own bathrooms, TV, and air-conditioning. Meals available. Pool, bar, and snooker room.
- **Dorpshuis Guest Accommodation**, 29 Alida Street – Tel 083 305 6497. Stylish rooms with own bathroom and TV. Lunch & supper on request.
- **Emthanjeni Lodge** – Tel 053 631 2777 / 083 388 0332. Situated at 4th Avenue Waterdal a few kilometres from the centre of town, this establishment consists of sixteen en suite units with separate entrances and braai facilities. Accommodation is on a self-catering or B&B basis, there's a swimming pool, and pets are allowed by arrangement.
- **Enslin's Rus Guest House**, 69 Van Zyl Street - Tel 053 631 3395. En suite rooms with TV. Secure covered parking and swimming pool.
- **Garden Cottage Guest House**, 18 Du Plessis Street – Tel 083 556 1303.
- **Gastezimmer Guest House**, 35 Claude Street – Tel 053 631 0878 / 083 502 6402.
- **Herberg Lodge**, 49 Schreiner Street. – Tel 053 631 0315 / 082 371 9002. Nine private en suite units each have their own entrance, mini-bar, air-conditioning, TV, desk, and lock-up parking. The grounds and gardens are very neat, surrounded by a security fence, and accommodation is spotless. A la carte and table d'hôte available for dinner in a private dining area with fireplace. Facilities include a bar, and internet/fax/photocopying service. For those wanting to braai, your hosts will set up a table alongside a portable braai and provide the usual accompaniments.
- **Hydra Guest House** - Tel 053 631 0522 / 083 459 0580. Situated 12km south of De Aar on the road to Hanover. Accommodation is in four separate self-catering houses. Facilities include a swimming pool and two tennis courts.
- **Janco Inn** - Tel 053 631 4726. Located in Station Street, this accommodation centre has 53 rooms, some of which have their own bathroom. Overnighters welcome.
- **Karoo Country Guest House** – 71 Voortrekker Street. Tel 053 631 0394. Four double rooms with bathrooms and TV. Meals available on request.
- **Mike's Lodge B&B**, 35 Alida Street. Tel 053 631 3245 / 083 468 6188. This very comfortable establishment has a variety of accommodation options catering for singles, couples, families, and businesspersons. There's a pool, snooker room, lounge, and pleasant dining / bar area with a fireplace. Rooms are en suite and have air-conditioning, fridge, fans, and TV. The pleasant owners will happily share their knowledge of the De Aar area with guests.
- **Nooitgedacht Guest Farm** – Tel 053 631 0241. Game viewing. Visitors may also view a small collection of Bushmen artefacts.
- **Potfontein Farm Holidays** – Tel 053 631 0092. Situated about 55km north of De Aar. An old school, built around 1900, and adjacent school master's residence, built in 1920, have been renovated and converted into guest accommodation. Victorian and art deco furniture and a farm kitchen with AGA wood stove add to the atmosphere. This large eco-friendly farm offers game viewing and rich bird life.

- **Potties B&B**, 30 Hoop Street - Tel 053 631 1555 / 082 340 0477. En suite rooms. Swimming pool.
- **Slingershoek Guest Farm** - Tel 053 631 0504. Situated about 30km from De Aar on a gravel road that “slingers” (zigzags). Accommodation is provided in a guest house that sleeps 8 people and is equipped for self-catering.
- **Taaibospoort Guest Farm** – Tel 053 631 0155. Situated about 35km from De Aar, this guest house is furnished with antiques and accommodates 16 people. Night drives can be arranged, there’s a swimming pool, walking, and horse riding, and the tree-rich environment makes for good bird watching.
- **Traveller’s Inn B&B**, 6 Niewoudt Street – Tel 053 631 1335 / 072 384 6073. The motto of this guesthouse is ‘Your home away from home...’ They serve good food and a great farmer’s breakfast. There are separate entrances to certain rooms and special rates for pensioners and children. Facilities include a swimming pool, bar, garden chess, lounge with TV, phone/fax/internet & scanning, and lock-up parking. Pets allowed on request.
- **Wonderboom Guest Farm** – Tel 053 631 3290. Game viewing.

SAFARIS

- **Nooitgedacht Guest Farm** – Tel 053 631 0241. Game viewing and hunting.
- **Potfontein Farm Holidays** – Tel 053 631 0092. Situated about 55km north of De Aar. This large eco-friendly farm offers hunting, game viewing and rich bird life.
- **Wonderboom Guest Farm** – Tel 053 631 3290 for hunting and game viewing.

PLACES TO EAT

Although most guest houses will provide lunches and dinners on request, some keep menus from the town’s restaurants who will deliver your chosen meal to your guest house door!

- **Deli B Well** – Tel 083 535 4341. This health shop and restaurant has some unique concepts, like ‘Boere sushi’, and caters for all needs including e.g. diabetic and gluten-free. They also serve popular dishes such as carpaccio and polenta. Instead of individual prices, items for sale are colour coded with buttons. No alcohol is served but guests are welcome to bring their own.
- **Klets Coffee shop** – Tel 053 631 1214. Situated in a quiet courtyard behind First National Bank, accessed from either Voortrekker Street or Alida Street. They serve good pancakes and light meals.
- **Pringles Pub & Restaurant** – Tel 053 631 1622. Voortrekker Street. If you want to meet some locals, this is a good place to start. Food-wise, they serve excellent steak, good pizza, and a range of filled tramezzinis (generally these are huge toasted sandwiches – however, local versions exist).
- **Schreiner Restaurant** - Tel 053 631 3535 / 082 970 2697. Situated in the house that Olive Schreiner lived in from 1907 to 1913 (corner van Zyl and Grundlingh Streets). Apart from succulent Karoo lamb chops, try the calamari tubes filled with prawns, mussels, and cheese.
- **Koolas** restaurant is situated near the entrance to De Aar Hotel in Friedlander Street. Telephone and fax - 053 631 2181. The à la carte menu includes seafood, pasta, and salads apart from steaks and red meat specialities.
- **Upstairs Restaurant & Coffee Shop** – Tel 053 631 0594. Located opposite the town hall on the first floor of a building next to the town’s only traffic lights. They serve the usual steaks and lamb chops, a superb ‘Full Monty’ pizza, good calamari rings, and a delicious ‘Tagilatelle Pavarotti’. Tables are laid out in different rooms, and in summer there’s outdoor seating on the first floor balcony overlooking the bustling De Aar Streets.

- **Ynopoty Restaurant** – Tel 053 631 0594. Situated at De Aar campus in Van Riebeeck Street, this restaurant is run by the students and serves a set menu of traditional meals, as well as à la carte.

WEATHER STATION

De Aar's very own weather station is a fully equipped, computerised unit that operates 7 days a week, 365 days a year. All pieces of weather measuring equipment are connected to one cable that runs to a bank of computers, and for instance the weather balloon that's released daily at noon sends the station information for pilots. It reads through different levels on its ascent, giving information on pressure, wind direction, wind speed, base clouds and other facts. On a guided visit, tourists may learn about Stephenson's screen, which has thermometers that measure maximum and minimum temperatures, and instruments that measure the humidity. The weather station has a sunshine recorder on which a new piece of paper is placed daily. It operates as the sun, directed through a glass ball, burns a mark on the paper, and by reading this, the number of sunshine hours per day are ascertained and recorded.

Tours are conducted by prior arrangement - telephone 053 631 1053.

GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING IN THE KAROO

The Karoo is one of the best regions in the world for paragliding enthusiasts to perfect their technique or attempt new height and distance records, and the town of De Aar is rapidly gaining status amongst both local and international pilots, but what makes it so special?

Paragliding

Thermic lift is what gliders and paragliders need most of all. Due to the dryness of the air in the semi-arid conditions of the Karoo it takes longer to reach condensation level, which is known as cloud base. This is often between 12 000 and 15 000 feet in the Karoo, which is higher than in many other areas, allowing pilots to climb to greater altitudes before the lift peters out – normally at cloud base. An area that allows a paraglider pilot to fly fast, for an extended period of time, at a high altitude would be termed as an area with perfect flying conditions. The town of De Aar offers all the above and is also situated in a low rainfall area, which means pilots have more flying days in a year. The airfield has launch areas in all wind directions and a mountain with launch areas in most directions, making it a perfect place to let your spirits soar.

For further details contact: Fly De Aar - Tel/Fax: 053 631 1555 / 082 340 0477

Email: flydeaar@telkomsa.net

Gliding

In optimal conditions altitudes reached by gliders in the Karoo can exceed 30 000 feet (10km's), with the world height record (2004) for gliders standing at 50 000 feet. Because of the dry conditions in the Karoo gliders can often climb 10 000 feet in 10 minutes or less, which means they can convert height to speed continually, i.e. push the nose down to increase speed without losing much height. Gariep Dam is famous for holding 3 world glider speed records over triangular courses of up to 1 000km's at speeds averaging 170km/h. Inter thermal speeds in modern gliders can exceed 300km/h.

For further details contact: Hanover Private Gliding Trust - Bruce Tel 053 643 0392
Email: bruclem@hanover-za.com
Experienced pilots only at present.

The Lesser Kestrels of the Karoo

The Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) is a small bird of prey that visits South Africa during our summer months as a non-breeding migrant from Europe and Central Asia. Many of these birds, whose global population has declined to such an extent that they are listed in red data books, come to roost in the trees lining the streets of many Karoo towns. The best place to see them is in De Aar, where they start arriving from late-October, and numbers can peak at more than 10 000 birds during December and January. This is possibly the only place in the world where flocks of such great numbers can be seen. Other towns in which to turn your eyes skyward at dawn and dusk include Colesberg, Victoria west, and Hanover.

OLIVE SCHREINER

In the early 1900s, Olive Schreiner lived in De Aar for several years, and her house can still be visited today in Grundlingh Street. Born Olive Emilie Albertina Schreiner in 1855 to a German father and English mother, she was the ninth of twelve children. Her missionary parents followed strict Calvinist traditions, but her father's financial insecurity caused the family to split and Olive was separated from her parents at the age of twelve. After living with her brother in Cradock for three years, she worked as a governess for the next eleven years, and started studying the work of a variety of well-known Victorian intellectuals. It was during this time that Olive started writing her own short stories while developing social ideas which eventually led her to be branded a Victorian revolutionist. Having saved for years, she bought a passage to England in 1881, but was unable to study medicine as she'd planned, due to her own poor health. In 1883, her book *The Story of an African Farm* was published under the pseudonym, 'Ralph Iron', because of the prejudice against women writers, but she revealed her identity for the second edition. Her career as a novelist, and later as a social activist had begun, and this book was to prove a great success throughout her lifetime. It's generally considered the founding text of South African literature. Olive began associating with a group of intellectuals that exposed her to England's literary elite, and at the same time she was expounding her own social ideas. In 1889, she returned to South Africa and three years later met Samuel Cronwright, who was to become her husband and, unusually, take her name. Her many miscarriages featured strongly in her later fiction. Olive was outspoken, and at times seen as a revolutionary political leader. She opposed Cecil Rhodes' colonialist activities in Africa and England's involvement in the Anglo-Boer War. By 1900, she was living under martial law in Hanover. Her writing provides an invaluable insight into early twentieth century war (she was a steadfast pacifist against the outbreak of WWI), imperialism, and the oppression of women. It also exposes the reader to the latter stages of the colonialist movement in South Africa. She died in Cape Town in 1920.

SAM THOZAMILE MOOI

Drum maker, musician and teacher

Sam Mooi is a multi-talented man who cares deeply for his culture and people. He's committed to promoting cultural tourism and cultural activities in his hometown, De Aar, and welcomes tourists interested in Xhosa culture, or those who would like to learn to play African drums. Having learned about jazz, Sam bought a drum and taught himself not only to play, but also how

to make drums, a craft he pursues today. He believes drums can help stress, build up teamwork, and help the community. Local children enthusiastically attend his lessons on the value of their traditional roots, but he also teaches those indigenous games, traditional and contemporary dance, and singing. Another of Sam's talents lies in choreographing performing acts, dancing, and especially gumboot dancing. He plays an important part in a project to eradicate poverty by teaching people how to make their own bricks and build their own houses. Gifted also as a welder, he produces many items including attractive beds. His dream is of setting up an African Cultural Centre where all artists, performers, and crafters can come together to practice their trade, learn from each other, and at the same time, welcome tourists who wish to experience this culture and purchase mementoes.

To visit Sam Mooi, contact Ms Brenda Tyhaliti at the Municipality on telephone 053 631 4176.

HANOVER

This attractive and historic little town on the N1 lies more or less halfway between Cape Town, Gauteng, and KwaZulu Natal. It was established in 1854 at the base of some rocky hills on the farm Petrusvallei, which was bought from Gert Gous. Gous requested that the town be called Hanover, after his great grandfather's town in Germany. When declared a magisterial district in 1876, the town was very fortunate to be appointed with a far-seeing magistrate, Richard Beere. He insisted that trees be planted so that resident's descendants would have shade. Due to the increase in water consumption caused by an increase in residents, the spring that Hanover was built around dried up, and the number of trees seen in the town today is far less than 100 years ago. Beere loved the Karoo and spent a lot of time on the summit of Trappieskop, where a stone pyramid honouring his contribution to the town was erected when he died. The older houses were all built right on the road edge – as per the authorities' instructions at the time – and when, in later years, homeowners built on verandahs, they had to pay a one shilling tax for this privilege. Today, they are still paying this tax, which is now R17.00. Hanover was home to Olive Schreiner – well-known South African author - who lived here from 1900 to 1907, and referred to it as “the prettiest little village I have ever seen”. Her husband, Cron, was an agent in town, and today his offices are used as a small guest house. Like many small Karoo towns, most of the streets are not tarred and the residential areas are very quiet, however, behind garden walls and front doors there's plenty of activity going on as the industrious residents carry out their daily business. The town is home to a variety of artists and craftspeople, as well as having several restaurants, a delightful bookshop, coffee shops, and a museum. There's interesting Karoo architecture to be seen and many gardens have a wind pump standing sentinel in one corner. Surrounding farms are principally Merino sheep, with many of the countries best breeders operating in the Hanover district. Lesser Kestrels, from Europe and Central Asia, come to nest in trees around town, and can be seen gliding in the dawn and dusk sky from late October to the end of summer.

TOURIST INFORMATION

- **Emthanjeni Municipality** - De Aar. Contact Ms. B Tyhaliti on tel. 053 631 4176.
- Tossie Stander – Hanover. Tel 073 138 9747.

ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS:

- **Agora Crafts & Restaurant** is located at the Excel garage on the N1, and it sells the handmade products of nine local crafters including furniture, recycled pieces, preserves, pottery, lamps, cushions, ornaments, and crockery. Try “Ann's Peanut Brittle” – it's terrific. They serve breakfast, coffee, and homemade scones, and light lunches. Tel 053 643 0224.
- **Artists** - Maritejie Stander paints landscapes in oils, and her work can be viewed at 9 Rawstone Street by prior arrangement. Telephone her on 083 332 1577. Tossie Stander paints in oils and watercolours, and she does fabric painting and makes candles. Telephone her on 073 138 9747 to view her work at 15 Market Street.
- **Cemetery** – There are some fascinating reasons to visit the town's cemetery, situated across the N1 to the west of the Caltex garage. There's an obelisk in memory of three young South African men who were executed during the Anglo-Boer War. This event deeply touched the lives of Hanover inhabitants because the men were not guilty of the crime they were charged with – derailing and plundering a train and therefore ‘maliciously assisting Boer forces’.

They were tried on somewhat dubious authority by a military court at De Aar, and in spite of protesting their innocence to the end; they were shot by a British firing squad. A Boer general later stated that his commando was responsible for the derailment and after the war; he joined Olive and Cron Schreiner in a lengthy campaign to clear the three men's names.

- **Cenotaph Memorial** – situated in a small park in Market Street, it commemorates those who died in WWII. Olive Schreiner's husband, Cron, had his office in the building that can be seen opposite the southern corner.
- **Coffee & Books** – situated at the top end of Darling Street on the edge of town. This small bookshop specialises in non-fiction and Africana books, but also has a good selection of fiction. All books are in good condition, and they cater for the collector. The adjacent photo gallery exhibits mainly black and white photographs. The shop and gallery is open all hours, and can also be contacted for a brochure of the town's walking tour. Tel/fax: 053 643 0392.
- **Crafters** - Timothy Fakude lives and works in Kwezi where he makes soft leather items, beadwork, bead hats, drums, baskets, and pot plant holders recycled from bottle tops. Ashwin Kleinveld lives and works in Tornadoville where he produces wind pumps of various sizes from 15cm to several feet high. They're manufactured out of scrap metal that he collects and paints silver. He also makes motorcycles that can be pushed around by children. Both these crafters can be visited by prior arrangement through Tossie Stander – tel 073 138 9747.
- **Deelfontein Cemetery with graves from the Anglo Boer War** – see information listing under De Aar.
- **Dutch Reformed Church** – Hanoverians are justifiably proud of this well maintained church, which was completed in 1908, and they argue that it's the most beautiful church building in the country.
- **Feathered Friends** – Situated at 'The Gables', a beautifully restored old Karoo building on the corner of Grace and Darling Streets opposite Hanover 'PackBackers'. There's an exotic waterfowl sanctuary, a tea garden and gift shop. Tel 053 643 0637.
- **Gliding** – During December and January, the odd glider can be seen in the late afternoon sky above the town. Hanover is an ideal place for gliding (see box on Gliding and Paragliding). For further information contact Bruce Clemence on tel 053 643 0392.
- **Hanover Museum** is housed in the original Petrusvallei farmhouse in Viljoen Street around which the town developed. It has displays of artefacts dating back to pioneer days, including documents and old photographs, furniture, kitchen appliances, clothing and a beautiful scale model of the church. If the museum is not open, telephone Marie on 053 643 0017 to view it.
- **Olive Schreiner's House** – Corner of Grace and New Street. Olive Schreiner, and her husband Cron, lived in this typically small iron-roofed Karoo cottage from 1900 to 1907 during the Anglo-Boer War. She was very happy living in Hanover - the Karoo air relieved her asthma and she thought the village a very pretty one. At one stage, her strong political views resulted in her being put under house arrest by the British forces for being a 'Boer supporter'.
- **Miniaturist - Gaby Kraft** lives in Olive Tree Cottage, 9 New Castle Street. Gaby, a member of the California Miniaturist Society, specialises in miniaturist paintings, although she also produces full size paintings. She accepts commissions, can produce works from a photo, and is also very good with pencil. Gaby is also passionate about the natural environment and has organised for trees to be donated to the town each year. Visits are possible through prior arrangement - tel. 053 643 0201.
- **Trappieskop** – meaning 'hill of small steps' is a well-known landmark in Hanover. The town's first magistrate, Charles Richard Beere, built the footpath, and a monument to his memory has been erected at the top. It's said that Olive Schreiner often used to climb up Trappieskop early in the morning, and when you see the views of up to 80km in all directions, it's obvious why. There's a second *koppie* (hill) with the remains of a British fort, and a reservoir, and on summer evenings thousands of Lesser Kestrels may be seen circling the hills around sunset.

- **Wortelfontein 4 x 4 route** – Here visitors may enjoy the Karoo landscape while doing a 7km 4 x 4 route on Wortelfontein Guest Farm situated between De Aar and Hanover, about 67km from De Aar. Overnight accommodation is available (see accommodation listing).

SAFARIS

- **Dwaalfontein** – Tel 053 642 ask for 1121 / 082 783 0800 / 082 583 0036. Situated just off the N10 to De Aar, 18km from the N1 and Hanover.
- **New Holme Guest House and Hunting Farm** - Tel 053 643-0193.
- **Plooyfontein** – contact Dirk van den Hever on tel 053642 ask for 1922 / 082 555 9260. The farm is approximately 20km from Hanover off the N1 to Cape Town.
- **Wortelfontein** – contact Christiaan Venter on tel 053 6912 ask for 1504 or Cell 082 378 3601.

ACCOMMODATION

There are several guest farms between Hanover and Colesberg – please see listing under Colesberg accommodation.

- **3 Darling Street** – Tel 053 643 0254. This delightful and intimate establishment offers warm Karoo hospitality in three houses, including a Victorian House furnished in traditional style. Overnight on a bed and huge English breakfast basis, or dinner, bed & breakfast. The bright and attractive restaurant, situated in an old house, is renowned for its great food and home-grown fruit and vegetables. Lock-up garages are provided, and pets are allowed by prior arrangement. 3 Darling Street is very popular with locals and overseas visitors, so be sure to book in season.
- **Best Pick Guest Rooms** – Corner of Queen and Mark Street. Tel 053 643 0110.
- **Bun Clody Guest House** - 15 Mark Street. Tel 053 643 0256. Situated in an old Karoo house with wooden floors, sash windows, and shutters. In summer, the back garden sparkles with colourful flowers and there are various seating arrangements where you can relax and chat to the owners, who are a good source of tourist information.
- **Bushmanrock Guest Farm** – Tel 053 643 0177. Situated about 18 km off the N1 and 25km from Hanover on the N1 to Colesberg, this farm offers B&B accommodation. Meals by prior arrangement.
- **Casa Lucé Bianca B&B** – Tel 083 549 1413. This guest house, the name meaning ‘house of the white light’, has its entrance directly opposite the police station in Queen Street. There are various accommodation options, including a 2-bedroom flat, or rooms. Safe parking.
- **Cron’s Office Guest Cottage** - Olive Schreiner and her husband Cron lived in Hanover during the early 1900s, and this cottage used to be Cron’s office. It’s been converted into a small self-catering guest cottage. To book telephone 073 138 9747 or 053 643 0256.
- **Dwaalfontein Guest Farm** – Tel 053 642 ask for 1121 / 082 783 0800 / 082 583 0036. Situated just off the N10 to De Aar, 18km from the N1 and Hanover. Meals on request, or make use of the interior braai and lapa facilities.
- **Halfway Overnight Flats** – 22 Darling Street. Tel 053 643 0094 / 082 543 3869. Apart from rooms in the owner’s house, there are two very spacious and spotlessly clean self-catering units for families. Children under 14 pay half price, pets are allowed by prior arrangement, and there are braai facilities in the garden.
- **Hanover Pack Backers** – Situated diagonally opposite Coffee & Books at the top end of Darling Street. This backpacker’s accommodation offers private rooms with a self-catering kitchen for very reasonable rates. There are caravan/camping facilities in the back garden and secure parking. Within easy walking distance of restaurants. The owners hire out mountain bikes, conduct walking tours, and arrange game viewing trips. Internet café, museum and bookshop nearby. Tel 053 643 0392

- **Hanover Inn** – Tel 053 643 0018. This budget accommodation was opened in a new building in December 2003. Rooms sleep two and there are communal bathrooms. Price includes breakfast.
- **Hanover Lodge** – Tel 053 643 0019. Corner of Market and Queen Streets. Offers traditional Karoo hospitality in what was formerly The Grand Hotel. Rooms, suites, and cottages are available with special rates for children under 10. Facilities include lock-up garages, a braai area, restaurant, and swimming pool. **Maskell House and Wendy House** also belongs to Hanover Lodge. Both were built at the turn of the 19th century and have yellowwood floors and ceilings. They're well furnished and have outdoor entertainment areas but all meals are served at Hanover Lodge. Maskell house has the oldest vine in Hanover at an estimated 120 years old.
- **Mieliefontein Guest Farm** - Tel 053 643 0170 / 082 555 9832. Situated just 8kms off the N1 between Colesberg and Hanover, it has 5 bedrooms and 1 cottage. Horse riding and bird watching available.
- **New Holme Guest Farm** - Tel 053 643 0193 / 082 567 9211. Lies 8km's out of Hanover towards Colesberg along a good farm road. 3 bedrooms and 1 family unit. Donkey cart rides, night drives, ostrich farm, horse riding and fishing. 'Braai's' in boma – farm style dishes. A dam on the farm facilitates excellent bird watching, and if prearranged, the farmer will lead bird watching tours.
- **Trappies Kop Guest House** – Tel 053 643 0401 / 083 746 3716. Rawstorne Street. This typical Karoo-style house offers accommodation with meals by prior arrangement (the owner is a qualified chef) or self-catering facilities.
- **Wortelfontein Guest Farm** – Tel 053 6912 ask for 1504 or Cell 082 378 3601. The guest farm is situated in a mountain range approximately halfway, between De Aar and Hanover, on a gravel road. This richly historic farm has lovely Karoo architecture, a three-storey shearing shed, and a dam with great canoeing and fishing. They offer 4x4 and hiking trails, horse riding, bird watching, game viewing, and farm activities such as sheep shearing, milking, and feeding pet lambs.

PLACES TO EAT

- **3 Darling Street** – Tel 053 643 0254. Renowned for its buffet, which includes home made soup, Karoo lamb, beef and/or chicken dish; and for vegetarians a quiche, curry or other. They also serve great pizza. Fruit and vegetables are home-grown, and the little shop alongside the restaurant sells homemade preserves, fresh bread, farm rusks, very unusual candles, and other items. The attractive dining rooms are furnished with antiques, there's an outdoor eating area in the back garden, and the atmosphere is relaxed.
- **Hanover Lodge Hotel** – Tel 053 643 0019. Their specialties are roast leg of lamb, roast springbok, ostrich dishes and Bobotie. Breakfast is served until 10:00, lunches are served at *Pannekoek de Karoo* across the road, and the lodge dining room is again open for dinner from 19:00 until 21:00 (and 22:00 in season).
- **Pannekoek de Karoo** – Situated across the road from the Hanover Lodge. Specialties are pancakes and waffles, but they also serve sandwiches and succulent rump steak. Try a different type of coffee (and they have many) like the mochochino.
- **Agora Crafts & Restaurant** – Tel 053 643 0224. They serve breakfast, coffee, and homemade scones, and light lunches.
- **Bimbo's** at the Excel garage on the N1, next to Agora Crafts & Restaurant, sells take-aways.

BRITSTOWN

Although the N12 bisects this little town, the back streets have a peaceful, well-established feel to them. There are still some examples of Karoo architecture in amongst the more modern buildings, some lovely little alleyways, and a few tree-lined streets. The attractive church stands in a square surrounded by houses, and from the edge of town you can gaze over the Karoo plains. Britstown was named after Hans Brits who accompanied David Livingstone on a journey into the interior, before settling on the farm Gembokfontein, which was to become Britstown. A group of locals bought a section of this farm in 1877 and built a church and community centre. In 1885, a private irrigation scheme was started by the Smartt Syndicate, who built two dams. Lucerne and wheat was planted, and karakul sheep and Clydesdale horses were grazed in the area. The syndicate liquidated in 1954, and the March 1961 floods destroyed the dam, which was then rebuilt by the government in 1964.

TOURIST INFORMATION: Britstown doesn't have its own tourist office, but visitors are welcome to contact Adlene Potgieter at Transkaroo Country Lodge in Market Street for information on the area. The Potgieters have owned the lodge for over 30 years and know the town and its environs very well. Tel. 053 672 0027 or 053 672 0222.

ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS

- **Artist** – Aljo Lombard lives on a farm about 15km from Britstown where she paints, sculpts and produces other works of art, including unique Christmas decorations. Her husband is a woodworker, and they also have a rustic guest house in the veld. Tel 053 631 7245.
- **Dutch Reformed Church** – This attractive building in Church Street was completed in 1877. Nearby is the lovely church hall built in 1918 and renovated a few years ago with special attention paid to the woodwork.
- **Game Viewing** – The farm Elandsfontein offers game viewing, hiking, and their accommodation has a stunning Karoo view. Tel 053 6712 ask for 2030 / 082 373 5543.
- **Kambro Hiking Trail** – Tel 083 305 6668 / 053 672 0408. There are two trails; one is for visitors who wish to stretch their legs over an easy 2km's. A pamphlet is provided with which grasses and Karoo bushes can be identified. The other is a 3-day trail, with the first and third days covering mostly flat veld, and the second day crossing hills and ridges. One night is spent in the Wild & Woes hut, which is fully equipped, and the other night is in an old farmhouse that's also fully equipped. Bedding is provided but neither establishment has power. Hikers may self-cater or meals can be provided by prior arrangement.
- **Masiphakamisane Project** comprises 15 members who produce cushions, handmade clothes, curtains, and other fabric items. Contact Mayna Kilarney through Adlene at tourist information.
- **Museum** - Richmond Street. This museum houses transport displays dating to the pioneering days. Ask tourist information to arrange a visit.
- **Painters** – Stella Viviers is a painter whose work includes personalised 'Welcome' signs for your front door. To view her work, tel 053 672 0393. Another enthusiastic artist is Dumisane Fihlani who, along with two youngsters, paints a variety of subjects. Dumisane can be contacted on 072 477 5683.
- **Star gazing** evenings with an old resident of the town can be arranged by Adlene at tourist information.
- **Welgegund Kruie** – Marty Oosthuizen grows fresh herbs on a small scale on their farm, Welgegund, between Britstown and Vosburg. The herbs are dried and sold as is, or used in

vinegar, sachets, or other products. Visitors are welcome. Tel 0536732 asks for Vosburg 1831 / 082 780 4144.

- **Woodworker** - Anton Lombard is a creative woodworker based on a farm 15km from Britstown. He custom makes furniture by hand out sleepers and durable indigenous wood. His creations are unique and may for example, combine steel with wood. Smaller items, like hot plates and picture frames, can also be bought. His wife is an artist, and they also have a rustic guest house in the veld. Tel 053 631 7245.

SAFARIS

- **Barendsfontein** - Tel 0536712 ask for 1631
- **Doornkuil** - Tel 0536712 ask for either 1611 or 1602
- **Elandsfontein** – Tel 053 6712 ask for 2030 / 082 373 5543 (Jacques Esterhuizen) offers game viewing, hunting and accommodation. Built a little house of ysterklip on a mountain, fully equipped, just take own food, hike, house in wild camp, also hunt.
- **Holdakkies** - Tel 0536712 ask for 4702 – very basic facilities for hunters
- **Holpan** - Tel 0536712 ask for 1812 – very basic facilities for hunters
- **Maritzdam Hunting Lodge** - Tel 0536712 ask for 4111 or 4113 reputation of not being nice people
- **Omdraaisvlei** – Tel 053 353 3334 or 083 461 3267. Situated exactly halfway between Britstown and Prieska just off the N10. Ethical Hunting and Safety Standards strictly observed. Junior Hunter's training course offered. Species include Gemsbok, Red Hartebeest, and Springbok. Slaughtering facilities and staff for capping and skinning. Highly recommended.
- **Rietpoort Guest and Holiday Farm** - Cell 083 468 6166. Situated about 25km from Britstown offers game viewing and bird watching. Recommended.
- **Soutaar** - Tel 0536712 ask for 4102 / 3 – Recommended.
- **Twyfelhoek** - Tel 0536712 ask for 21301. Recommended.

ACCOMMODATION

- **Elandsfontein Farm Stay** – Tel 053 6712 ask for 2030, or cell 082 373 5543. Guests are accommodated in the game camp in a house built of local dolerite rocks, situated up on a mountain with an outstanding view of the Karoo. It's fully equipped and visitors just need to take their own food. Game viewing and hiking available.
- **Kambro Farm Stall and Accommodation** – Tel 083 305 6668 / 053 672 0408. They offer chalets, camping & caravanning facilities, a restaurant with traditional farm décor, take aways, a farm stall selling crafts and a hiking trail.
- **Mirage Rooms** - Tel 053 672 0310. Facilities include lock-up parking, braai areas, and the use of a kitchen and lounge. The owners also make crafts like clocks, lamps, and decorated blackboards.
- **Olyfboom Guest House** - Tel 053 672 0366. B&B accommodation with meals by prior arrangement. No self-catering facilities, but there is a nice braai area. One room en suite, two others share a bathroom. Shady lock-up parking and guard dogs.
- **Omdraaisvlei Guest Farm** – Tel 053 353 3334 or 083 461 3267. This 16,000ha game and stock farm that's managed strictly according to conservation principles, is situated exactly halfway between Britstown and Prieska just off the N10. Guest accommodation is in a delightful old farmhouse that's equipped for self-catering, although meals can be ordered and emphasis is on traditional Karoo and South African cuisine. A fully equipped cottage is also available, and both establishments are separate from the family homestead. Facilities include horse riding, swimming dam, tennis court, camping, laundry, day & night game drives, donkey cart treks and day care or baby-sitting. There's much to enjoy on this farm and for instance, visitors may view an area where the continental drift tectonic plate cracks can clearly be seen.

- **Rietpoort Guest and Holiday Farm** - Cell 083 468 6166. Situated about 25km from Britstown, this fully equipped and renovated private cottage is decorated with antique furniture and guests stay on a B&B basis, with lunch and dinner served on request. Facilities for those who prefer to self-cater include a braai area. Swimming pool, game viewing, bird watching, fireplace for winter, tennis, horse riding (suitable for children) and walking trails available. Guests may participate in farming activities such as hand-milking cows.
- **Rooidam Guest Farm** – Tel 053 6712 ask for 2212.
- **Smartt Guest House** - Tel 053 672 0164. En suite rooms with M-Net and full breakfast included. Facilities include swimming pool, braai area, restaurant, and secure parking.
- **Transkaroo Country Lodge** - Tel 053 672 0027 / 22. This is a real treat for those travelling through the Karoo. Its open 7 days a week and a delightful interior and courtyard await the visitor. The living areas of the lodge are Tuscan-Mediterranean, and the paved courtyard is partially covered by a grapevine-encrusted pergola. Accommodation ranges from elegant to budget, en suite, and air-conditioned. Covered lock-up parking available. Guests can enjoy light meals and sundowners on the swimming pool terrace, and superb meals are served in the restaurant. 24-hour reception.
- **Wild & Woes** – This self-catering cottage is situated about 25km from Britstown and can sleep 6 people. As it's pretty isolated, the owners hire it out for 2 or more nights only. There's a 1-3 day walking trail taking in neighbouring farms, with Karoo flora identified and marked along the route. Tel 053 631 7245

PLACES TO EAT

- **Country Café, Deli, Restaurant, and Coffee Bar** - based in the Transkaroo Country Lodge in the main street. Tel 053 672 0027 / 22. The restaurant that can seat 77 people serves à la carte meals from 07:00 to 21:00, and their wholesome Karoo fare has an established international reputation for excellence. Although roast leg of Karoo lamb is their specialty, and the evening carvery offers a good variety of dishes, there's much more on the menu to choose from. Their tea garden is well known for its superb scones and cheesecake, and light meals may be enjoyed in the courtyard or on the pool terrace during summer.