

# CARNARVON, HOSPITALITY AND THE SKA

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[CREDIT: RIAAN DEWEE]

*A visual storytelling reflection on challenges, strengths  
and opportunities for building local capabilities*

# ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

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“We’ve been living  
here all our lives.  
These are the issues.  
Just listen to us.”

This was the main message from the community members who participated in our initial stakeholder workshop in Carnarvon in March 2018. People in Carnarvon wanted universities, researchers and the SKA to do things differently. They wanted spaces and platforms for their voices to be heard and taken seriously.

We listened and we made a serious attempt to do the research differently.

In August and October 2018, we worked with a group of people in Carnarvon to tell their own stories about life and work in the small Karoo town. Through photography and storytelling, the group reflected on the impact of the SKA in their community. They produced photo-stories highlighting improvements and new opportunities linked directly and indirectly to the presence of the SKA. The stories also bring attention to challenges, how some things have stayed the same, and how the drought has become a key feature in their lives and shapes their future.

The purpose of this booklet is to share the Carnarvon group's photo-stories, with the group, and with a wider audience within and beyond the geographical boundaries of the town.

*These stories are personal. They matter.*

# THE PHOTO-STORYTELLERS

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## AQUILA **HOORN**

Aquila is originally from Carnarvon. She has one son and works as a waitress at a restaurant in town.

## ZENOBIA **MALETTA**

Zenobia is from Carnarvon. She is a member of the AME Church Carnarvon and works at Cape Dutch Guesthouse.

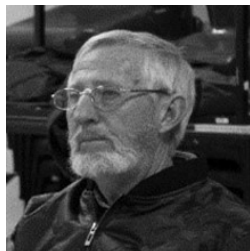


## KLARA **VAN WYK**

Klara works at Cape Dutch. She is a mom of six and is a leader of her church group.

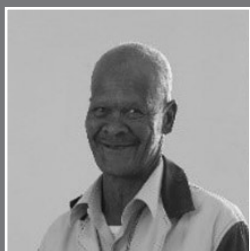
## GERRIT **LOUW**

Gerrit is a building contractor and estate agent in Carnarvon. He is involved in job creation and community projects via his church and a local NGO.



## JONATHAN "JONTY" DE BRUYN

Jonathan was born in Saldana Bay and has one child. He worked at Cape Dutch Guesthouse and was part of the construction team who built the road between Carnarvon and SKA.



## LEONARD NEL

Leonard is a senior citizen who finds joy in gardening at one of the local BnBs.



## LOUISE BOEZAK

Louise is a retired politician and activist. She is passionate about the youth and the history of Carnarvon.

## ELDA JANN

Elda is the owner of Cape Dutch. She is a professional nurse and a mom of two daughters, Madel and Christa.



## RIAAN DE WEE

Riaan de Wee, one of the Photovoice participants, designed three logos for the WhatsApp group's profile picture.



All of the participants voted and chose this one:



# MAKING THE PHOTO-STORIES

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★ Navorsingsvraag?

Lewensbestaan  
↓  
Plaaslike Ekonomie → Toerisme  
SKA? ↔ Lewensbestaan

Hoe afekteer die SKA Die BnB's & my lewe? of nie...  
Toerisme

VOICING  
OUR  
INDIVIDUAL  
AND  
COLLECTIVE  
EXPERIENCES  
THROUGH  
PHOTOGRAPHS

GUIDING QUESTION:

*How does  
the SKA affect  
livelihoods,  
like the BnBs  
and tourism and  
also my life?*

# THE ARID KAROO



## STOFBAD (*Dust Bath*)

Antonio Erasmus

Die tiener staar na 'n leë swembad. Die munisipaliteit se stadige reaksie om boorgate te gebruik om die swembad op te vul hou die dorp weg van die geleentheid om die swembaddens te geniet. Die munisipaliteit moet net voordeurend herinner word van die belangrikheid van buitemuurse aktiviteite. As gevolg van die droogte was die swembad jare laas gevul maar daar is hoop vir die toekoms.

*A teenager stares at an empty swimming pool. The municipality's slow reaction time to use boreholes to fill the pool keeps the town away from the opportunity to enjoy the swimming pool. The municipality must be constantly reminded of the importance of this extra-mural activity. As a result of the drought the swimming pool hasn't been filled for years, but there is hope for the future.*





## SANDSTORM

Zenobia Maletta

Die sandstorm beeld die droogte uit. In Carnarvon is water skaars. Ons bid vir reën en besef ons het geen beheer oor die natuur nie.

*The sandstorm depicts the drought. In Carnarvon, water is scarce. We pray for rain and realize we have no control over nature.*

## ASKAMP

Klara Van Wyk

Van vêraf het die prentjie my aan my kinderdae op die plaas laat dink. Ons wasgoed het so lekker in die wind gewaai. Toe ek nader kom het dit my hartseer laat wrok en al wou ek verder stap het die vullis my oorweldig. Ons moet 'n projek aan die gang kry om weer ons dorp skoon en netjies te kry. Die opruiming moet verder as net die hoofstraat gaan. Daar is baie werklose mense wat die taak kan aanpak.



*From afar, the picture reminded me of my childhood on the farm. Our laundry blew so well in the wind. When I approached it made me sad and even though I wanted to move on, the garbage overwhelmed me. We need to get a project started to get our town clean and tidy again. The clean-up should go beyond just the main street. There are many unemployed people who can tackle the task.*

# HERITAGE, HISTORY, COMMUNITY



## **ERFENIS TOER** (*Heritage Tour*) Gerrit Louw

Daar is verwaarloose huise in Carnarvon. Elke huis het 'n storie en as daardie huise opgrader kan word sal dit dalk toeriste lok. Die styl van die huise en die geskiedenis is uniek aan Carnarvon en dit is ons erfenis.

*There are neglected homes in Carnarvon. Every house has a story and if those houses can be upgraded, it might attract tourists. The style of the houses and the history is unique to Carnarvon and that is our heritage.*



**CARNARVON SE STENEMAKERS** (*Brick Making With a Donkey*)  
Gerrit Louw





**HAPPY**  
Gerrit Louw

# JOB CREATION & OPPORTUNITIES



## **MEN ON CORNER**

Antonio Erasmus

Mense wat op 'n hoek sit en wag vir 'n werksgeleentheid.

*People sitting on the corner waiting for work.*



## SIGNS

Elda Jann

*Soos iemand die dorp binnekom is daar 'n groot kennisgewingbord. Dit voorsien inligting wat besighede bevorder. Dit gee rigting vir toeriste en maak seker dat hulle verblyf op 'n goeie not begin.*

*As someone enters the town there is a large notice board. It provides information that promotes businesses. It also gives directions to tourists and makes sure that their stay starts on a good note.*





## TROTSE TUINIER

(Proud Gardener  
Leonard Nel)

Antonio Erasmus

Al sukkel ons met droogte, is ek dankbaar vir my mooi tuin en groen grasperk. Die natuur is belangrik vir my en ek voel trots op my handewerk. Dit maak ook die gastehuis mooi en gerieflik. Meer gaste is meer werkseleenthede vir ons.

*I am grateful for my green lawn even though we battle with the drought. Nature is important to me and I am proud of my handiwork. It also makes the guest house attractive and comfortable. More guests means more job opportunities for us.*



## KAREEBERG BIBLIOTEEK

*(Kareeberg Library)*

Michael Gastrow (Before)

Antonio Erasmus (After)







## **MEGA UITBREIDING IN CARNARVON** (*Mega Extension in Carnarvon*) Aquila Hoorn

Karoo Mega Stop is 'n vulstasie en restaurant, met 'n bottelstoor langsaaan. Toeriste kan by die plek alles onder een dak kry. Daar is ook 'n winkel met alle toebehoore vir die langpad. Dit het baie werkseleenthede skep en ek kan self in die toekoms daar gaan werk. Die Mega Stop het 'n groot leemte gevul en is ook lekker kompetisie vir bestaande besighede. Dit maak dat almal op hulle tone bly.

*Karoo Mega Stop is a gas station and restaurant, with a bottle store next door. Tourists can get everything under one roof at the place. There is also a shop with all accessories for the long haul. It has created many jobs and I can work there myself in the future. The Mega Stop has filled a big gap and is also good competition for existing businesses. It makes everyone stay on their toes.*



## HANDVAARDIGHEID

*(Hand Skills)*

Louise Boezak

Jongmense wat werkloos is kan opgelei word om naaldwerk te doen. Kan die SKA dalk toerusting skenk of 'n beurs gee vir sulke kursusse? Ons kan baie meer jongmense help as net die slimmes met 'n beurs. Te veel drop uit wat nie akademies kan opkom nie. My hoop is 'n handvaardigheids opleidings sentrum bevonds deur die SKA.

*Unemployed youth can be trained to do needlework.*

*Could the SKA donate equipment or provide a scholarship for such courses?*

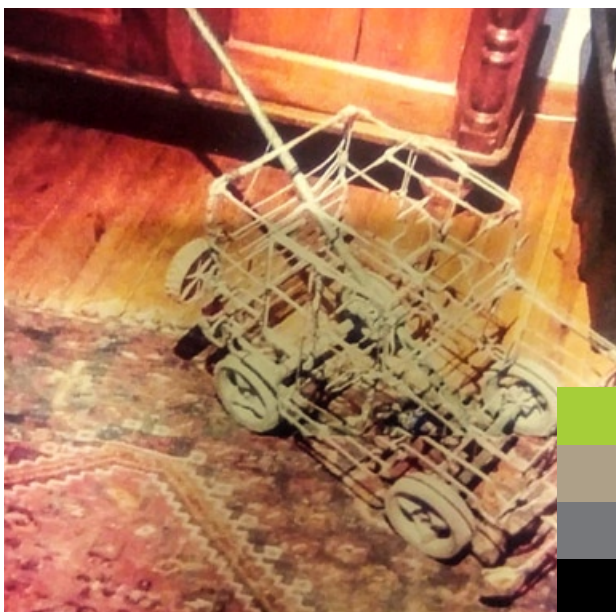
*We can help many more people than just the smart ones with a scholarship. Too many drop out who can't achieve academically. My hope is that a skills training centre will be funded by the SKA.*



## METAALWERK (*Metal Work*) Aquila Hoorn

'n Local werklose persoon gebruik skraapmetaal en ander stukkies skrap om karretjies en windmeule te bou. Die kunswerk word by Lord's Kitchen uitgestal en gee die plaaslike talent 'n platform. Die toeriste wat daar eet kan dalk die items koop of bestel vir 'n volgende besoek. Dit help om vaardighede te ontwikkel en kleinbesighede te begin.

*A local unemployed person uses scrap metal and other scrap pieces to build carts and windmills. The artwork is on display at Lord's Kitchen and gives the local talent a platform. The tourists who eat there may want to buy or order the items for a next visit. It helps to develop skills and start small businesses.*



# REFLECTIONS FROM THE GROUP

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“Vir my was dit baie belangrik  
om meer te leer wat regtig in  
‘n foto sessie aangaan.”

*For me, it was very important to  
learn more about what really goes  
on in a photo session.*

“Die mees nuttige ding,  
was die Grid line  
‘Stunning’.”

*The most useful thing  
was the Grid line  
‘Stunning’.*

“Om te besef  
dat deur fotografie,  
stories vertel kan word.”

*Realizing that  
through photography,  
stories can be told.*

“Kyk met nuwe oë  
na die boodskap wat ek  
met ‘n foto wil oordra.”

*Take a fresh look  
at the message I want to convey  
with a photo.*

“ Die waarde  
van fotografie! ”

*The value  
of photography!*

“ Dat ek die diepte en betekenis  
van fotografie asook die samelewing  
en interaksie met mekaar. ”

*The depth and meaning of  
photography as well as the conversation  
and interaction with each other.*

“ Alles was nuttig  
- van die begin. ”

*Everything was useful  
- from the beginning.*

# CONCLUSION

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Carnarvon may seem like just another town in the Karoo but once you look a little closer and listen attentively there is a rich history and a community full of hope. The drought, unemployment and other socio-economic challenges are not easily overcome, but with a positive attitude there is hope for Carnarvon.

The co-creation of research and the knowledge that flowed between the various parties involved in this project serves as a guide for similar future endeavours. It was a capacity building process and a learning experience for all. As the project ends, it is only the beginning of what is possible by Carnarvoners for Carnarvon.



## **KAROO SONOPKOMS** *(Karoo Sunrise)*

Riaan de Wee

In die vroeëoggend ure sien ek 'n verskietende stêr en voëls wat vlieg.  
Ek geniet altyd die oggend, skoon en vars lug van die Karoo.

*In the early hours of the morning I see a shooting star and birds flying.  
I always enjoy the morning, clean and fresh air of the Karoo.*

# RECOMMENDATIONS

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The photo-stories highlight concerns of the Carnarvon group as well as some of their recommendations for building local capabilities. One specific recommendation from the Carnarvon Photo-voice group to the SKA: create an accessible information centre in the town, as a platform for engagement and knowledge exchange.





**SKA INFORMASIESENTRUM (SKA Information Centre)**  
Riaan de Wee

Leerder besoek informasie kantoor om dalk navorsing te doen oor SKA en die doel van SKA. Alhoewel die skottels vêr uit die dorp uit gebou is gee die gebou vir my 'n idee wat daar aangaan. Die kantoor skep werk vir mense in die dorp en is 'n plek waar toeriste kan gaan om 'n smaakie van SKA te vind.

*Learner visits information office to do some research on the SKA and the purpose of the SKA. Although the dishes are far out of town, the building gives me an idea of what's going on there. The office creates work for people in the town and is a place where tourists can go to get a taste of the SKA.*

# ABOUT THE RESEARCH

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## *Why Carnarvon? Why focus on hospitality?*

Carnarvon is the closest town to the SKA site in the Karoo. This big-budget global science project has presented significant challenges as well as opportunities for development in the town. Over the years, there has been an increase in visitors to the town – mainly people who work for or with the SKA such as technicians, engineers, civil servants and scientists rather than tourists.

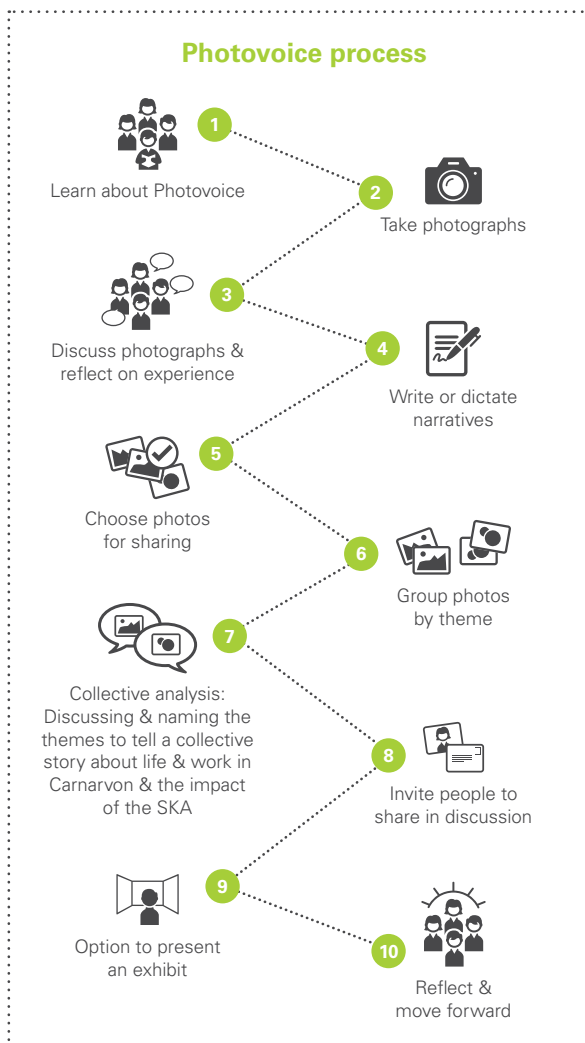
Not long after the SKA rose to prominence in the consciousness of the local public, enterprising entrepreneurs began to react to the promise of new markets. We are thus seeing a growth in new and upgraded B&Bs, restaurants and shops. Things started looking up for Carnarvon.

## *Why focus on local capabilities?*

From the start of the research, we decided to go beyond exploring what exists, to try to build a picture of possibilities for engagement with more long-term benefit to the town.

## How were the Photo-voice workshop participants selected?

A group of nine people were selected to be involved in the Photo-voice workshop. Seven participated for the full four days. These people were selected because they had something to 'say' and insights to contribute to the research question. There are many other people in Carnarvon who fit this profile. We purposely encouraged participation from the 'less vocal' members of the community who we had met along the research journey. In this way, we could provide a platform for the voices less heard.



Source: Adapted from Lorenz (2005)  
(<http://www.lslorenz.com/currentphotovprojects.htm#photovpath>)



# IN LOVING MEMORY OF RIAAN DE WEE

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Riaan loved nature and took great pride in providing for his family and uplifting his community. He was like that shooting star in his photo story, Sonopkoms... Gone too soon but we are left inspired by his life.

# RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION TEAM

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GLEND **KRUSS**

Project leader  
and oversight



IL-HAAM **PETERSEN**

Project leader, co-facilitator,  
overall design and oversight



MICHAEL **GASTROW**

Case study leader,  
co-facilitator



THELMA **OPPELT**

Fieldwork co-ordinator,  
co-facilitator, liaison, documentation



ANTONIO **ERASMUS**

Photography, co-facilitator



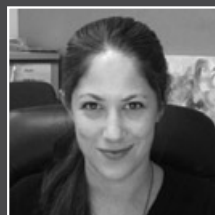
STEVENS **MOCHEKI**

Documentation and  
event support



NOMPUMELELO **FOFO RAKABE**

Inputs and  
curation assistance



TRACEY **WATSON**

Graphic design



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Thank you to Gerard Ralphs (HSRC), who has played a key role in developing and implementing the project's dissemination strategy.

We are also grateful to all the stakeholders who participated in the initial stages of this project, their contribution was key in paving a direction for the project. We acknowledge all who took part in the one-on-one in-depth interviews. We would like to thank you for your time and for sharing your stories with us.

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