

Old Library Museum boasts brand new exhibition

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FEW people know that the concept of a trust company originated in South Africa, in Cape Town in 1834, and then spread to other countries worldwide.

When the Association of Trust Companies (ATC) celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1982, it closed a time capsule intended as a deliberate means of communication with a future audience and a way of recording change over time. The nervous hype about Y2K and insecurity at the turn of the century led to the opening of the time capsule at a black-tie event in Sandton in March 2000.

The contents, along with many new memorabilia, were placed in another time capsule which is scheduled for opening in 2032, the centenary year of the ATC.

In a recent development, the Fiduciary Institute of Southern Africa (FISA)* which branched out from the ATC, arranged for the time capsule to form part of an exciting new exhibition at the Old Library Museum in Graaff-Reinet.

Dr Eben Nel, chairperson of FISA, explained, “FISA decided that Graaff-Reinet, due to its historical connection to the trust company movement, the fact that one of the oldest trust companies in the world is still operational in Graaff-Reinet, and the fact that Graaff-Reinet has proved itself as a responsible guardian of history, makes it the ideal town to become the custodian of the colourful heritage of the trust company movement and the development of the fiduciary profession.”

To properly celebrate the official opening of the new exhibition, FISA decided to make it a weekend event. Attended by representatives



From left, Dr Eben Nel, national councillor of the Fiduciary Institute, Anziske Kayster, Graaff-Reinet Museums curator, and Nicola Woods, of Country Mouse Design, at the official cutting of the ribbon to open the FISA permanent heritage display. **INSET:** Graphic designer Nicola Woods, of Country Mouse Designs, examines the museum panels she created for the Fiduciary Institute’s heritage exhibition. PHOTOS: SETH LE ROUX

from all over the country, FISA’s annual general meeting was held at the Graaff-Reinet Club on Friday, March 19.

David McNaughton, from Karoo Connections, hosted a tour of the town and the Valley of Desolation, and the Drostdy Hotel prepared a special dinner.

The official opening of the new exhibition took place on Saturday, March 20.

The concept, design and layout of the exhibition were done by local graphic designer Nicola

Woods, with the input and knowledgeable support of museum curator Anziske Kayster and local architect and historian Peter Whitlock.

“It was an honour to work with such an enthusiastic and dedicated team from FISA and Graaff-Reinet organisations and companies, to put this event and exhibition together,” Woods said.

*FISA represents practitioners in the fields of estate planning, wills, trusts, deceased estates and beneficiary funds.