

## Grahamstown

Contributed by Mark Euijen

**M**artin Glover, who has been a member of this Bar for the last ten years, retired towards the end of last year due to ill health. He will be sorely missed, not least by me, for his friendship and wit, which is not always in large supply at the Bar. Fortunately for his wife and other choir members, he is able to continue singing in the (for readers of this column and others) renowned Pro Carmine choir.

There have been a number of additions to the membership of the Grahamstown Bar. Three former members returned at the beginning of this year. They are Steve Allcock and Laurike Meintjies-van der Walt (who have both been lecturing at Rhodes), and Jock McConnachie (who has been involved in the less cerebral pursuit of estate agency). Allcock and Meintjies have both taken up chambers at St George's Chambers, while McConnachie has taken up chambers at Equity House Chambers (of which more below).

In addition, our successful pupils from last year, Margeaux Beard and Craig Renaud, have both also taken up chambers at St George's, which is consequently full again.

Our annual Bar dinner was held on Friday, 2 February, at the Grey High School in Port Elizabeth. The guest speaker was our current Acting Judge President, Judge Frank Kroon, who spoke of 'Mice and Men'. As usual, the good food and drink served to lubricate

interaction with the rougher edges of one's colleagues and ensure that a good time was had by all.


At the annual general meeting held before the Bar dinner, Ben Ford SC stood down from the Bar Council after four years as vice chair and chair. Richard Brooks and Gerald Bloem also stood down. Grahamstown members elected to the Bar Council at the AGM were Izak Smuts SC, Torquil Paterson and Bevan Boswell. One vacancy remains to be filled.

Lauren Conlyn, the immediate past honorary secretary of our Bar Council will be taking what we hope is a temporary leave of absence, to join her husband for a two year sojourn in Ireland. We wish them everything of the best and hope that they return to Grahamstown in due course.

Two of our members, Shaughan ('Lake Lorna') Cole and Murray Lowe SC, have both recovered from major surgery

undergone towards the end of last year and we are pleased to welcome them back to chambers in good health.

### Equity House Chambers

Although Grahamstown may be perceived by outsiders as a small and isolated rural town, it is in fact a bustling (small) urban metropolis, particularly once the students have returned from their annual leave. The same trends that played themselves out in Johannesburg a decade ago have also in time come to Grahamstown, albeit with a suitable time lag. So it was that approximately two or three years ago, we had our own exodus to the North from St George's Chambers when Izak Smuts SC established his new group on the other (northern) side of High Street. Not to be outdone by my Port Elizabeth colleague, I have included an illustration of Grahamstown's equivalent of Sandton Chambers with this contribution. 



Sketch of Equity House Chambers.

## Noord-Kaap

Bygedra deur Japie Schreuder

### Lede

Die Vereniging van Advokate het slegs vyf lede: Van Niekerk SC, Botha, Schreuder, Coetzee en Hendriques. Tog slaag die Vereniging daarin om nou betrokke te wees by aktiwiteite in die gemeenskap. Daar was onder andere in 2006 verteenwoordiging op die Griekwaland-Wes Rugby-Tugkomitee (Van Niekerk is

die voorsitter), die Landdrostekommissie en die beheerliggame van skole

### Sosiaal

Die Vereniging het sy jaarlikse afsluitingsgeselligheid op 24 November 2006 gehou by Lillydale Lodge langs die Rietrivier. Die lekker kuier het gepaard gegaan met kospotte soos net sekere here – wat amptelik advokate, maar nie-amptelik 'resepte-kenners' is – dit kan voorberei. Tot laataand is daar feesgevier. Almal, die lede en hulle gades, het dit terdeë geniet om 'n lief-

like Noord-Kaapse somersaand op die walle van die Rietrivier deur te bring.

### Lekgotla

A *lekgotla* was held at the Flamingo Casino in Kimberley on 5 and 6 November 2006. The *lekgotla* was chaired by Judge Tlaletsi. Members from all sectors of the legal fraternity were present. The aim was to interact on ways and means on how to streamline the legal process. Members of our Society took the opportunity to put their views on the table – especially on civil trials. 