

Genealogical Society of South Africa – West Gauteng Branch
 Report to the National Annual General Meeting – 24 February 2007
 For the Year January to December 2006

Management

At the Annual General Meeting held on 18 March 2006, the following branch committee was elected:

Chairman and membership	Lucas Rincken
Vice chairman and presentation co-ordinator	Frans Viljoen
Treasurer	Dennis Pretorius
Publicity	Richard Ford
Training	Isebelle Krause
Librarian	Louise Dick
Secretaries	Events Recording
	Barbara Bouwer Margaret Humphries

Membership

Membership of 35 from the previous year grew to 52 – 48.6% increase, mainly due to new members recruited at the Hobby-X show. Following incorporation of the old Johannesburg branch, this grew further and now stands at 83.

Meetings

The following meetings were held:

Date	Topic	Presenter	Attendance
18 Feb	How a newcomer to genealogy resolved his problems	Japie Bosch	
18 March	Annual General Meeting		14m
22 April	Activities of the South East Witwatersrand Family History Society	Wynand Deyzel	19m 1v
20 May	Scrapbooking	Claire Myburgh	18m 10v
24 June	The Cruywagens of South Africa: Genealogical and Cultural History Research (1690-1806)	Dr Willem Cruywagen	12m 1v
15 July	Heraldry	Peter Smits	19m 2v
19 Aug	Cemetery Recording		3m
16 Sep	Address by the president of GSSA	Johann Janse van Rensburg	22m
21 Oct	Copyright	Amanda van Loggerenberg	12m 2v
18 Nov	A webmaster tells all	Paul Maré	24m

In the attendance column “m” means paid-up members (including members from other branches) and “v” visitors. Unfortunately during the change over of chairmen, the attendance register for 18 February 2006 was mislaid and the attendance is thus not available. Other than for this date, attendance averaged 16.1 members and visitors for the 9 meetings.

Branch committee meetings were held every two months. The support and assistance from committee members carried the branch particularly through the period after the change in Chairman. It is fitting to acknowledge the great role played in branch affairs by the previous

chairman and comforting to know that he is always available to share his knowledge and expertise and to provide guidance where so often necessary.

Projects

West Gauteng News

Five issues were published during the year to inform members of forthcoming events and to carry transcripts of presentations made at branch meetings. It is, furthermore, used to promote membership and every edition is sent to a prospective member list. It is also distributed through eGSSA, for which effort, our sincere thanks to Colin Pretorius and his team. We are indeed fortunate that the editor of our National Magazine, "Familia", also produces and distributes our newsletter with his usual efficiency, Our thanks to Richard.

Hobby-X

Over the period 1st to 5 March 2006 and under the leadership of Isebel Krause, the branch again managed the stand on behalf of the National Executive. Funds made available to us by the NEC were not fully used and we believe we can claim that it was, once again, a successful and worthwhile event.

We recruited 39 new members not just for our branch, sold two Cilliers Books and two Rincken-de Wet CDs. Much interest was raised and no less than 66 persons gave us contact details in the visitors' book.

Other than to the branch team, a special word of thanks to Isabel Groesbeek and Daan Hamman who came all the way from Pretoria to assist us and to members who visited from as far afield as Potchefstroom and Bloemfontein.

CDs

The CD containing "*Die Dagboek van Ds Herman Frederik Schoon*" has now sold a total of 22 copies while 71 copies of the "*Rincken-de Wet Database*" have already been sold. To fulfil promises made, a special edition was also made available free of charge to GISA. The database is still expanding and now contains 314 542 individuals. The assistance of committee members in the ongoing work is vital as is the flow of data from so many sources. Our sincere thanks to all who have contributed.

A further CD "A tribute to Mark Tapping" should be released shortly. Sadly, Mark, a member of our branch, passed away on 28 March 2006 and the CD contains a collection of the articles published by him in various magazines.

Training

We had hoped to present a training course for beginners during the past year but this had to be postponed and will now be presented on 3 February 2007.

Lucas RINKEN
15 January 2007