

## Accessible Heritage sites in the Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality Part 2

**NGK Waterberg Noord:** on the Sondagsloop road, about 5 km east from Mpatamacha, off the road from Vaalwater to Melkrivier. This church was built in 1932 and operated until 1963, when the NGK in Vaalwater was built. Today it has been beautifully restored and is used for services and ceremonies by *Word en Liewe*, a charismatic church group from Gauteng.



***Melkrivier NGK Waterberg Noord, restored***

**Clive Walker's Living Museum:** due to open in September 2017, the Walker museum complex is located on the Vaalwater / Melkrivier tar road, about 25 km N of Vaalwater, at the Krokodilrivier crossroads. Its displays will include a variety of themes, including rhino, Eugene Marais, plants and minerals.

**Perdekop:** Towards the western end of the Sandriviersberg, on the farm Sterkfontein 282KR, the flat-topped hill Perdekop (1710m above sea level) overlooks Jan Trichardt's Pass. Early settlers found that during late summer, flies carrying horse sickness could not tolerate the conditions on top of the hill and so they would corral their horses there. More recently, the hill became famous as the discovery site of the rare Waterberg Copper (*Erikssonia edgei*), a beautiful butterfly which was found only at that locality until a few years ago, when a colony was discovered living on the Bateleur Nature reserve between Alma and Bela-Bela.



***Perdekop***



***Waterberg Copper butterfly***

**General “Groot Freek” Grobler’s grave:** General FA Grobler was a Boer Commandant with an illustrious military past, responsible for the Waterberg and Soutpansberg commandos at the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War; he lost the support of his superiors when he favoured surrender after June 1900. He died from fever in May 1901 on his farm Sterkfontein 282KR, in the western Waterberg.



**General Grobler and his grave on Sterkfontein.**

**Tarentaalstraat:** The district road R710 winds its way northwards via a series of scenic kloofs through the eastern Sandriviersberg onto the Waterberg plateau from the Modimolle-Vaalwater R33 tar road at Doornfontein, one of very few early routes by which wagons and later cars could access the plateau. The pass was discovered by *Rooi* Jan Erasmus, a recluse who lived in these hills in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and was named, not for the guinea fowl that frequent the roadside, but for the nickname given to its discoverer on account of his acne-scarred face.



### ***Tarentaalstraat kloof***

**Papstraat:** Just north of Tarentaalstraat, on the D710/579, is a short pass up the hills on the farm Kaalvallei 163KR. Built as a means of employing indigent farmers and *bywoners* during the Great Depression of the 1930s, the pass was named Papstraat on account of the *mieliepap* ration that was fed to the workers.



### ***Papstraat***

**Geelhoutkop:** The highest point on the central Waterberg plateau, Geelhoutkop (1739 m above sea level) was an important strategic location during the guerrilla phase of the Anglo-Boer War and was used as a redoubt by the commando of General Beyers. A school and homestead on the farm, Driefontein 164KR, were burned down by the British. The top of the ridge is known for its stands of indigenous yellow-woods (*Podocarpus latifolius*), silver sugarbush (*Protea roupelliae*) and krantz aloes (*Aloe arborescens*).



***View towards the north from Geelhoutkop; aloes & yellow woods amongst the rocks***

**Vaalwater Water Tower:** When private developers first laid out the village of Vaalwater in the early 1950s, they were required to provide all amenities, including roads, sewerage and water. This tower, situated on the northern boundary of the



township, at the last four-way stop on the road to Melkrivier, provided all the water needs of the early residents and was filled by pumping from the Mokolo River.



***Vaalwater's original water supply***

**Vaalwater's Post Office:** Opened by the Postmaster General, MC Strauss in March 1967, the village's first government building was built on a site (Stand 325) demarcated in the private township development plan of 1955 for government use, but never used until then.



***Vaalwater / Mabatlane Post Office***

Richard Wadley, July 2017, revised and expanded, September 2017.