



# Four Flies Flash

May/June 2009

Volume 1, Issue 3

**Newsletter**  
**Subscribe**

Click and send

## **Specials**

**Please visit our  
website at  
[www.4flies.co.za](http://www.4flies.co.za)  
for our special of  
the month.**

**Ensure that you  
are the first to  
enquire and  
secure your  
booking**



*Did you know? The largest rainbow trout on record weighed 57 pounds (25.8 kilograms) and was estimated to be 11 years old.*

## **The abandoned hamlet of Bonnefoi**

How often do you come across a truly abandoned village? That is exactly what you will discover in the shelter of a blue gum stand near Carolina in the hills of the Komati Valley. Dating back to 1872, years before the proclamation of Carolina as a town, Bonnefoi was known as a lively trading post in the old 'Eastern Transvaal'. Around 1880 Tom and Charles Everard built a store on the farm and it became a gathering place for farmers, transport riders and traders to exchange news, post letters and parcels and attend auctions. During the Anglo Boer War the brothers declared their neutrality and as a result the small town was rescued.

It was only after the war that Charles met the artist Bertha King and described her as a 'ray of sunshine'. They were married on 27 June 1903 and she moved to Bonnefoi. One of the first things she did was to design and supervise the building of a majestic mansion. They had three children, Ruth, Rosamund and Sebastian. Bertha continued with her artistic career and became famous for her numerous landscape paintings of the area. Bertha, her children and her sister Edith later became the world renowned 'Everard Group' of painters. (Visit <http://www.everard-group.com/pageBertha.htm> for information and pictures).

Not only will you still find the first store and the mansion on your visit to the village, but also the Wesleyan Church, the Post Office, the Hotel, general stores, the auction yard, horse stalls and feedlots. The Bonnefoi mansion, a silent, empty house and the old classic car still parked in the garage at the top of the main street, belie the hustle and bustle and the rich history of the early beautiful and special little village.

Visits to the village can be arranged via Highveld Heritage Tours.

Tel: 017 819 4707

Cell: 084 840 0232

E-mail: [tourism@webafrica.org.za](mailto:tourism@webafrica.org.za)

## **Editorial**

And so we all cast our votes. It was a cold day. At Four Flies we took all our staff and went to our polling station, Moedig. Everything was well organized and after about an hour we all had our say. The results were not much of a surprise. Now, after the inauguration of the new president and members of parliament, the excitement is over. We all continue with our daily lives. But, will this make any difference to the lives of South Africans? "Probably not" says one of our staff members. "We only hear the promises before the election".

This reminded me of the time of Nehemiah when the walls and doors of Jerusalem were in ruins and destroyed by fire. When Nehemiah asked Israel to rebuild the wall they answered: "Let us rise up and build!" And then they strengthened their hands for the work. It is a good thing that they did not wait for the government of the day to rebuild the wall. Or, that they did not



### Your home away from home

StayAtSinai is a self catering accommodation establishment located in Villieria, Pretoria (Pretoria is located in Gauteng, South Africa). Situated in a quiet suburb, in a cul-de-sac on the slopes of a "koppie", StayAtSinai offers tranquil and peaceful surroundings and is central to a number of attractions and other facilities. A peaceful garden offers space for children to play and quiet corners to sit and enjoy the ambience and birdsong. StayAtSinai caters for your needs while visiting Pretoria, providing a home away from home.

StayAtSinai is located within 3.5 km of the N1 highway and within a 7km radius of all the important hospitals, attractions, shopping centers, embassies and universities in Pretoria.



Fully fitted kitchens for self-catering



Roelien Botha  
083 294 7439  
roelienb@stayatsinai.co.za  
http://www.stayatsinai.co.za/

Of every six plants found in pristine South African grasslands only one is a grass (A E van Wyk; 1994)

**Art for You**  
Original art pieces available. See catalogue in your unit.



Dragonfly

### Contact us

Miemie and Wim van Loggerenberg  
[www.4flies.co.za](http://www.4flies.co.za)  
[miemie@4flies.co.za](mailto:miemie@4flies.co.za)  
Cell: 083 703 1166 or 083 703 1287



blame anybody or expect anything for this mammoth task. In fact, they took responsibility for their city and each person did his tiny part. And regardless of the scorn and laughter and contempt, little by little, they rebuilt the wall.

What if... What if we stop blaming and criticizing? What if we stand up and take responsibility for our own lives and our country? What if we each do our tiny part? Wouldn't South Africa only then be the place we all want it to be...?

## Four Flies News

1. Visit us at [www.4flies.co.za](http://www.4flies.co.za) to view our new website. We would love to hear your comments on the new look. Please send your commentary to [miemie@4flies.co.za](mailto:miemie@4flies.co.za)
2. To make it even easier to visit us, we have registered with Nightsbridge Realtime Availability. You can now check availability on the internet and secure your booking on the spot by paying your deposit online. You will find the "Check availability" button in the left-hand column of every page on our website.
3. Have you ever experienced the satisfaction of making your own artwork? You will find it enjoyable and therapeutic. Register for one of our art classes before you arrive at **Four Flies Nature Farm**. Attend your class between 10:00 and 13:00 on Saturday mornings. This month we do collage. All materials are provided and you do not need any skills. R100 per person.
4. Are you interested in stars and satellites? Visit [www.heavens-above.com](http://www.heavens-above.com) and register **Four Flies Nature Farm** as an observing site. You will find interesting info on the skies above Four Flies. GPS coordinates: **S 25° 58' 07.2"** and **E 30° 17' 52.7"**

### Unsubscribe newsletter

<mailto:miemie@4flies.co.za?subject=Unsubscribe>