



**SARAO**  
South African Radio  
Astronomy Observatory

# MEERKAT CREATIVE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE (MCCI)

DESIGN  
DIRECTORY  
2019

# INTRODUCTION

In 2012, South Africa and Australia jointly won the bid to host the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio telescope. The SKA project is an international effort to build the world's largest radio telescope, with eventually over a square kilometre (one million square metres) of collecting area. The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO), a facility of the National Research Foundation, is responsible for managing all radio astronomy initiatives and facilities in South Africa, including the MeerKAT Radio Telescope in the Karoo, and the Geodesy and VLBI activities at the HartRAO facility.

The MeerKAT telescope is an array of 64 interlinked receptors, which will be integrated into SKA Phase 1.

The telescope is built outside Carnarvon, the South African site of the SKA telescope. Carnarvon, Williston, Van Wyksvlei and Brandvlei are small towns that surround the SKA core in the Northern Cape. These communities are faced with social and economic challenges such as unemployment, substance abuse, theft and limited job opportunities. The Northern Cape province is the largest province in terms of the area which it covers with the smallest population of any of the nine provinces. Within the Northern Cape there is a significant need and opportunity for the upgrading and upscaling of the province's tourism products, which if done correctly, could result in job creation, skills development and economic growth.

SARAO initiated the MeerKAT Creative Community Initiative (MCCI) aiming to create an effective upskilling and intervention programme in Carnarvon, Van Wyksvlei, Brandvlei and Williston in the Northern Cape. The end goal is to source craft makers from disadvantaged backgrounds and under-resourced communities, provide them with creative skills training, as well as basic business and marketing skills and introducing them to the first steps in how to run sustainable businesses. SARAO appointed the Craft and Design Institute (CDI) to implement a six-month pilot program managed by the SARAO Commercialisation Unit. A series of workshops focusing on design, creative skills training and developing quality products unique to the Karoo was conducted by the CDI.

This directory is intended to be an attractive, easy-to-use resource profiling the diverse collective output of the MCCI graduates. It is an introductory round-up of talent in the four towns, a visual taster of the crafters' diverse products.

We are committed in building arts and craft talent, we hope you enjoy the design directory.

If you would like to place an order please email [commerce@ska.ac.za](mailto:commerce@ska.ac.za) or call the SARAO Commercialisation Unit on +27 506-7300.



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# ALTA SWANEPOEL

Alta Swanepoel is a farmer's wife with love for nature, she has a gift to create and uses recyclable and nature products to create handmade products. She is versatile with sewing, leatherwork, crocheting, knitting, embroidery and woodwork.

**Contact: 083 453 1156 / 054 603 1104**



# AUBREY KLAASEN

Aubrey Klaasen is a self-taught, well known Corbel house building specialist from Williston, with a deep spiritual connection to his stones and the environment he finds them in. He builds miniature Corbel houses, pot plant holders, key chains and pendants from hand selected rocks of the northern Karoo making jewels of the earth for your appreciation and admiration.





# ELMARIE NAUDÉ

Elmarie Naudé is a well known, self-taught fine artist at the Williston Mall. She makes a variety of handmade products inspired by the Northern Cape's natural beauty and culture. The portrayal of wildlife and jewels of the area shows her love for the Karoo and community.

**Contact: 072 018 7288**



# ELSA VAN SCHALKWYK

Elsa van Schalkwyk makes soaps, bath salts and ointments from old recipes of the Van Schalkwyk family who farmed along the Zak River since 1850. It is colorless and fragrant free. All the products contain honey and beeswax.

**Contact: 053 391 3069 / 072 074 0919**



# ESTELLE OLIVIER

Estelle Oliver is a farmer from Carnarvon with a passion to paint and draw. She loves nature and uses her drawings to introduce the Karoo to the rest of the world. She loves painting on rocks.

**Contact: 083 645 6065**



# GAVIN MITCHELL

Gavin Mitchell is a fine artist and crafter for the past 23 years. He is inspired by nature and is passionate about inspiring the youth to discover their creativity.

**Contact: 081 061 0220**



# JASON VAS & NASH DANIELS

Jason Vas and Nash Daniels are two school going young adults living in Van Wyksvlei. They collect plastic bags and make crocheted plastic bowls.

**Contact: 061 205 1775**



# LEONETTE SMIT

Leonette Smit runs workshops in Van Wyksvlei teaching the community to recycle plastic to make functional handcrafted products. She is part of a group of unemployed people from Van Wyksvlei who keep their environment clean and sell their products for a sustainable income. She makes crocheted jewellery from recycled plastic.

**Contact: 082 584 4992**



# MADELAINE CHRISTIANS

Madelaine Christians works with a team of unemployed young women and creates dream catchers, chandeliers and earrings.

**Contact: 064 097 3910**



# MARA CHRISTIANS

Mara Christians makes traditional clothing and herbs for the local and tourist market.

**Contact: 084 446 7312**



# MARIA LACKEY

As the breadwinner of her family, Maria Lackey uses a variety of needlework and crochet techniques to make useful household accessories and clothing that she sells to locals and tourists.

**Contact: 084 446 7312**



# MARIA PIETERSON

Maria Pieterseon lives in Williston and has a passion for drawing the Fauna and Flora in her environment. She translates her drawings onto Lino carvings and prints the images onto beautiful products, such as dishtowels, cushions, aprons, scarves, gift cards and book bags. Maria can interpret your personal designs.

**Contact: 072 360 1473**



# MARIETJIE VAN DER MERWE

With an ethos of environmental activism Marietjie van der Merwe uses materials to repurpose into beautiful crafted jewellery and décor items. Being active environmentally and socially Marietjie also provides training to the community to spread the conservation message.

**Contact: 073 921 2776**



# RACHEL RYK

Rachel Ryk sews for a living and started her embroidery crafts when she became involved with the SKA. She produces a variety of products such as bags and other items.

**Contact: 084 228 1798**



# SHARON BAADJIES

Sharon Baadjies from Van Wyksvlei makes a living by working with recycled plastic. She makes jewellery and functional accessories using simple tools, such as blades and candle flame.

**Contact: 074 693 7650**



# STEFANUS TIETIES

Stefanus Tieties is from Van Wyksvlei. He gives new life to objects that he processes into usable items and then decorates them with scenes from his environment using a simple soldering iron.







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