

## Free State

By Henriette Murray, Bloemfontein

### Members

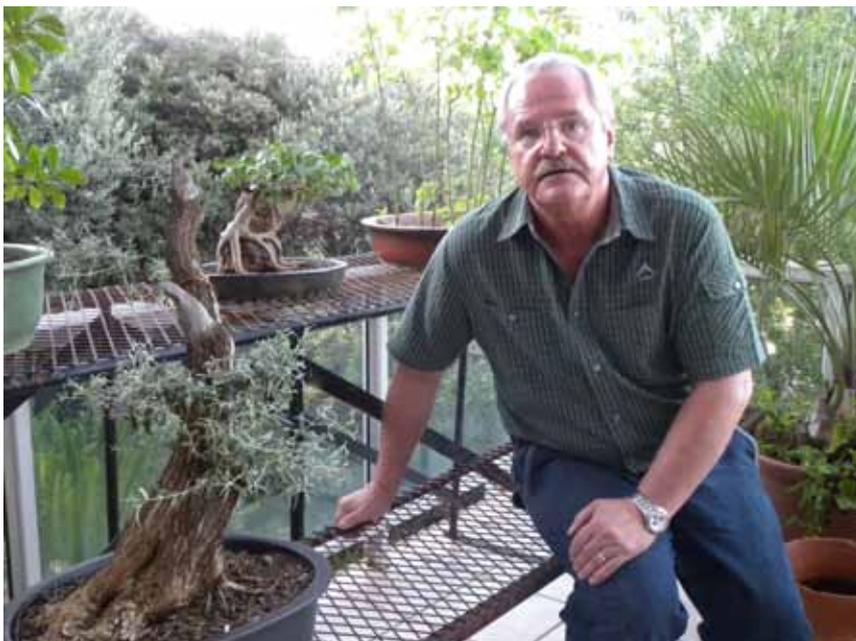
Well, what we've all been dreading for the past few years has finally happened: the FS Bar has 'split' - fortunately only figuratively! With two of the 60 Bar members already sharing one office and the Supreme Court of Appeal still occupying the entire third floor of the Iustitia Building, the five 2009 pupils, Lawrence Manye, Berna Smal, Danita de Kock, Willem van Aswegen and Mike Louw, who took chambers on 1 December 2009, had no other option than to rent premises in the Metropolitan Building on Aliwal Street. With not an inch of extra space remaining, 2010 mentors perforce have to accommodate the pupils in their chambers. The five new arrivals are: Altus Kitching (Cape law firm), Anchen Coetzee and Stelios Tsangarakis (from EG Coopers, Bloemfontein), Denise Greyling (from Webbers, Bloemfontein) and Almé Stanton (from the FS Law Society).

As to further Free State pastimes: some of our members actually prefer to relax in their spare time and, astonishingly, find the time to create beautiful things from the Free State flats and further. Two such colleagues are Bertie Fourie and Henri Benade, both with a passion for nature and wood.

Bertie has crossed seven African countries in his 4X4 photographing trees and collecting seeds and trees and rocks, from the Tsodilo

Hills in Botswana to the Fish River Canyon in Namibia, to create an amazing bonsai collection of baobab, wild olive, batleja, Kei-apple, white stinkwood (Cape Laurel), acacia, maple and ficus trees, to name but a few. In four of the five well-known bonsai styles, he patiently twists and prunes and shapes and styles for three years per tree, the bonsai roots and trunks into a fairy-land of 'dwarf trees' some of which, like the baobabs, have to be nurtured and protected against the harsh Free State winters by being kept indoors, some even in his closet, to be replanted in the spring. And whenever a bonsai dies, Bertie recreates it into beautiful polished wood and gold fountain and ballpoint pens, such as the photographed set made from a dead wild olive bonsai.

And Henri? Elegant hand-crafted cabinets, tables and intricate wooden boxes in stinkwood, mahogany, blackwood, iron wood and more adorn his chambers where his latest masterpiece, a majestic mini-grandfather clock, cheerfully keeps the occupants of that corner of the fifth floor on their toes, sounding its silvery chimes every hour on the hour and thrice in between. And just for fun, to pass whatever is left of his spare time, Henri makes knives, and in between studying the latest law reports and finding new books for the Bar library, ponders the geological and archeological phenomena of our continent.



Bertie Fourie with some of his bonsai collection.



Gold fountain and ballpoint pens made by Bertie Fourie.



Henri Benade's mini-grandfather clock. 

## Northern Cape

By Lizanne van Niekerk, Kimberley

### New Bar Council

The members of the newly elected 2010/2011 Northern Cape Bar Council are: Johan van Niekerk SC (chairman), Chris Botha (deputy chairman), Lizanne van Niekerk (honorary secretary), Willem Coetzee, Jacqui Henriques, Dries van Tonder (additional members).

### Acting appointments

Jacqui Henriques of the Northern Cape Bar held an acting appointment in the Durban High Court during the first term. Chris Botha from the Northern Cape Bar held an acting appointment in the Northern Cape High Court during the second term.

### Advocate arrested!

On 28 January 2010 Sharon Erasmus, a practising advocate at the Northern Cape Bar, was arrested by police in her office. Some of