

Grocott's Mail Friday, 26 April 2013

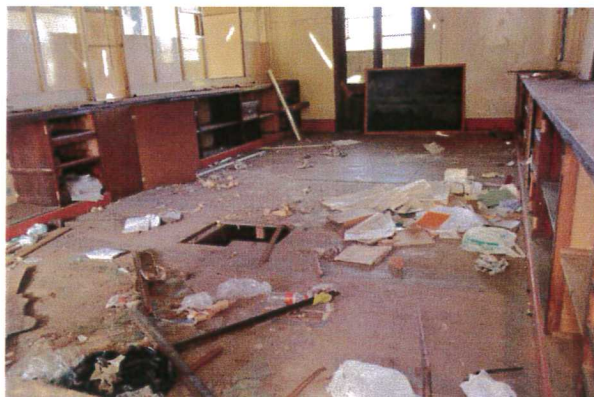
TRAIN STATION

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# Deterio-station



**NOT SO LONG AGO...** When Amie Tarr held her Masters fine art exhibition 'Absence' in three rooms at the station in February the floors, doors and built-in furnishings were still intact. Tarr describes other untouched treasures that were still in the building like old telephones, chairs and even a large safe that was still in place. Photo: 3PPhotography



**BEYOND REPAIR?**... This was the sight that met Grocott's Mail reporters visiting the station last week, after receiving a tip-off that thieves were busy taking roofing from the station. Upon further investigation they found rubbish strewn everywhere, broken windows, metal and other fittings stolen, floorboards ripped up, doors unhinged and faeces everywhere. Tarr planned to have her exhibition at the same venue during the National Arts Festival in June, but she says there's no way she could hold it there now. Photo: Bridgette Hall



**UNDER OBSERVATION...** This week Grocott's Mail reporters found a clean-up operation was in progress after the public had been alerted to the station's plight. Local business owner Lungile Mxube has hired a security guard to watch the station, as he hopes to turn the old building into a bus terminus in the near future. The guard, Mthobeli Cecil Giba, has started sweeping the floors, barricading broken windows and removing rubble from inside the building. Photo: Bridgette Hall

*In just over two months vandalism and looting have nearly destroyed the Grahamstown Train Station, leaving the provincial heritage site in a shambles. The historic building's rapid deterioration has shocked locals like Rhodes Fine Art student Amie Tarr, who held an exhibition there earlier this year. When reporters **Bridgette Hall** and **Fabio De Dominicis** accompanied her to the station this week, Tarr was horrified to see the state the station was in.*



**BEFORE AND AFTER...** The old telephone booth outside the station was also unable to escape vandals. As the above photo on the right illustrates, the door of the booth has been stolen, as well as the steel stairway railing. Photos: Amie Tarr and Bridgette Hall

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