

Even though many think of Bushman's as a sleepy little seaside village, time seem to hurtle by as quickly as it does in the cities. Here we are near Easter and I've barely managed to pack away the Christmas decorations!

This newsletter is filled with both good and bad news.....hopefully of interest to all.

We have finally had some rain – not that much, but, whatever we get is welcome. Stringent water restrictions are in force and our gardens all look rather withered – but at least our tanks have water. Speaking of gardens may we once again appeal to ALL homeowners not to leave piles of garden refuse on the pavements? Ndlambe will no longer pick up this refuse unless it's in green plastic bags and a request is put in, and the result is that we have dry untidy piles blowing into the roads. BRRAG is available for refuse removal at a nominal fee – please give Corris a call to arrange -083 654 6160.

One lot of grass that BRRAG has removed is the large area down at the river beach! Thanks to generous donations we were able to clear a sizeable section of the river frontage reclaiming a lovely beach area. The cost was substantially more than the donations and we are still appealing for contributions to this project. No doubt the grass will grow again so all who feel like yanking some out when down there are more than welcome!

A big thankyou is due to Peter Campbell and family –

including grandchildren – who dug out the bench at the beach, cleaned and painted it for all to enjoy.

Another good news story is that the completion of the bridge is in sight! Not immediate – but – hopefully by August all three bridges – Bushman's, Kariega and Kasouga will be completed. There is talk that the Bushman's section will be ready by June (but don't hold your breath!).

Despite the bridge, our local restaurant The Red Apple has made a great effort to make visits there more enjoyable. A recent guitar recital and pottery exhibition made for lovely ambience while enjoying a meal there. I hear more interesting things are planned.....

Now for the bad news.....and, top of the list apart from Eskom and water must be crime. There has been a spate of unpleasant incidents in and around the area from house burglaries, two burglaries on lone female homeowners, to car thefts and a full on armed robbery at Preston's! All concerned are doing their utmost to counter this scourge and all members are urged to be more vigilant, keep outside doors locked at all times, report on anything suspicious and also report on any crimes no matter how small they may seem at the time. Crime statistics are an important factor to obtain additional policemen to assist in our area. More guards have been posted to the area, and Hi-Tec have also increased their security staff. Hi-Tec have also advised that alarm systems and panic buttons be tested by

homeowners once a month. They will respond to all calls even if it is a false alarm in order to establish that it is just that and not something more serious. Pepper spray is also available at their offices.

Some arrests have been made following this latest wave – distressingly, the suspects ranged in age between 14 and 20!

BRRAG has appointed Hi-Tec as its preferred security company and members are urged to make use of their services when appointing an armed response company for security purposes. In order to identify members, we have obtained a luminous BRRAG sticker that can be placed on the Hi-Tec (or old Web or Coastal Electronics) signs affixed to homes. Hi-Tec has now acquired both Web and Coastal. This sticker will identify BRRAG members who participate in the security initiative co-sponsored by BRRAG and Hi-Tec. Members can obtain stickers from Ian Smith at the "isea" office.

STRAY CATTLE

The procedure for dealing with stray cattle is as follows;

1. The contact person is Inspector James Gerber of the Alex Traffic Dept
084 855 3566
2. Gerber will arrange the pickup of cattle via Mr. Brent McNamara, a local farmer, who transports them to the pound in Bathurst. Brent's number is 084 819 0291

RIVERSBEND

Members from Riversbend are welcome to contact our committee members living in that area for issues to be brought to the committee or that you wish us to attend to. Please contact Stompie Bellingan or Roy Somers.

If you need to contact any of the committee members, please see the particulars on our website www.brm.org.za

DONORS

Without the assistance of our generous donors, we will not be able to embark on all the projects that we anticipate for this year.

Our donors during 2009 – 2010 to date were (with apologies if any names do not yet appear...)!

R 30 000

Pieter Mouton

R20 000

Lötter Wepener

R 5 000

Jacques Malan

R 4 000

Wendy Grove

R3000

J H vd Walt

R 2 000

Peter Campbell

G A Baker

Corrie Swanepoel

R1800

B Northrop

R 1 000

Helen & Udo Kannegiesser

Sprong Family Trust

R 900

C Waddell

PJA De Klerk

E R De Bruin

M V Du Plessis

G Hatfield

L Barry

R500

K Friend

R 400+

Oorlog Botha

R 400

J De Coning

Liz Baker & Peter van Heerden

Johan Bosch

A H le Riche

P e Klerk

P de Waal

D Edwards

F Schoor

R Marais

L Heunis

P Campbell

H v Zyl

D Birkhotz

R de Power

C Gous

M Bruning

C Buchner

R 300

Hatfield Family Trust

Boet & Minky Minnaar

C Sprong

R 250

J O Bowes

R225

E de Bruin

R 200

P Dormehl

David & Ann Edward

T Verschoor

D Laubscher

G Schmidt

10 Loerie St

R 150

A McLean

B Lindhorst

R Frazer

R 100

FJ Berg

T A Biggs

Brenda Brown

R & R Brown

M Crago & T Tapson

D Laubscher

Dobell

K Friend

Chris Gouws

D J Gunn

SJB Hartman

L Heunis

L M Lucouw

O Malan

L D Malan

AM Marais

Mr McRedfern

C Morgan

T Verschoor

J Potgieter

P Botha

A Goddard

E Malherbe

S Neave

Dataforce Grass

G Reynolds

C Rose

J vd Walt

R Reynolds

A Heunis

G Lister

R 50

EE Malherbe

Nel Potgieter

A J Van der Berg

Heartfelt thanks for all the generosity – and keep it rolling in so that we can continue making the difference!

Fund raising is always a difficult task – but, the reality is, that if we do not have the funds, we will not be able to keep up the projects we have embarked on, in particular the regular maintenance of our public places. To make it a bit more fun we will be holding an Auction and Cheese & Wine evening after our next AGM on December 27 2010. So diarise the date now! Contributions in kind for the auction will be gratefully received from now on – so now you can get rid of the antiques Grandma left you and those spare bottles of birthday

whiskey. In fact anything saleable will be accepted. Just contact one of our committee members to arrange a pickup if necessary. And – Thank you – once more.

More good news is that our BRRAG Vice Chair – Sheila Swanepoel, after successful bypass surgery, is once more in good fighting form!

We once again appeal to all for any books and magazines that would be of interest to primary school children – The youngsters at Klipfontein devour the books so any donations are most welcome. They can be left at Kenton News or Robot Furnishers – who, if you don't already know offer THE very best in prices for household appliances and furnishings.

Nicolls is now sporting a new shop sign – “FoodZone” – and offering many discounts now that they are affiliated to a larger food chain.

INDIGENOUS TREES IN BUSHMAN'S AREA

Concern has recently been expressed in regard to the apparent removal of indigenous trees in the town to be replaced by exotics and sometimes even aliens! This area boasts some of the most magnificent trees in South Africa and it is a great pity to see these removed in favour of trees hailing from other countries. There are a great number of options in the area. Here is a short list of the most popular that we encourage homeowners to plant – and at

the same time remove the aliens that may still be in your gardens.- Inkberry, Syringa, Lantana, Port Jackson are amongst the culprits.

RECOMMENDED TREES

Wild Plum
Cape Chestnut.
Cape Ash
Tinderwood
Dwarf Boer-bean
White Milkwood
White Ironwood
Erythrina grouping Common
Tree Euphorbia Tree Aloe

Finally – two of our stalwarts will be moving to Port Alfred in the not too distant future – so we wish Charles and Rashida Sprong everything of the best – and don't be strangers once you've packed your bags!

So – as Francois Pienaar once said “It's hell in Africa, but we'll make it work!”

Sterkte – Wendy and the BRRAG Committee.

SPECIAL NOTE:

THIS NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO OUR ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP LIST – WHICH INCLUDES QUITE A FEW WHO HAVE YET TO PAY THEIR 2010 SUBSCRIPTION. MAY WE RESPECTFULLY MAKE A HEARTFELT APPEAL TO ALL OF YOU TO MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE MEMBERSHIP FORM WITH BANKING DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED OFF OUR WEBSITE

www.brm.org.za

THANKYOU/BAIE DANKIE!