

May 24 – it's cloudy and cold – typical winter morning – ideal for curling up and watching Comrades Marathon. Winter has arrived – not enough rain to date, but a definite chill in the air!

These past two months have been filled with activity. The membership drive was most successful and thanks to all paid up members as well as a special thankyou to the many who made generous donations. To date our membership has grown to 230 and we have received R48 150 in membership fees and donations!

In April a special meeting was held at which the amendments to the Constitution were accepted making membership available to all who enjoy living or holidaying at Bushman's. The name **Bushman's River Mouth Ratepayers' Organisation** was adopted, together with the acronym "BRRAG – We make the difference! Ons maak die verskil

And the differences are already becoming pretty obvious! The committee commenced with a number of projects to upgrade and maintain the town, The sidewalk along the slipway has been repaired, a walkway along the gabion wall is being constructed, road signs are back in place and improved, the skinderboom area is being upgraded, and we are making efforts to get the jetty repaired and improve the main beach parking area. Most of these projects have been financed from our donations, including the contracting of a local garden service who has been working throughout the Village in order to clear the many overgrown and neglected areas.



The "new" Skinderboom area

Hopefully members will appreciate these improvements and understand that by keeping our coffers filled we "can make the difference"!



New wooden Walkway

We have had meetings with two Ndlambe Municipal directors and have required of them to attend to a number of matters. These included the non-functioning sewage plant, additional refuse bins, upgrading of public toilets, construction of a slipway at Riversbend and a number of other issues. We have had some promises and some successes, but will be keeping at it. As of last week the Ndlambe Ratepayers' Forum issued Ndlambe with an ultimatum regarding many of the various towns' common complaints, in particular both service delivery and the unacceptable new valuation roll. Read about this on Talk of the Town's website - myportalfred.co.za An advertised application to develop a caravan/camping site on the picnic grounds was met with immediate and overwhelming objections. As a result the application was withdrawn – further proof of what we can achieve when we have strength in numbers!

The theft of one of our local treasures was fortunately thwarted by observant locals when they noticed sections of the Volo wreck had been disturbed. Apparently they were about to be stolen and sold for scrap! The various pieces have now been removed from the beach and are being safely stored until such time as a suitable display area can be decided on.



Part of the gearing removed

Talking of theft, a well attended meeting was held recently at which a discussion was held in conjunction with both the police and security companies with regard to the unfortunate rise in crime in the area. A task committee was elected (comprising several of BRRAG Committee members together with other willing volunteers). They will be meeting with both police and security companies in order to arrive at a proactive way in which our community can deal with this scourge.

Work on the bridge continues apace and we have been reliably informed that completion is anticipated by August 2009.

We have a small group of enthusiastic "teachers" who have volunteered to tutor the learners at Klipfontein. Main aim is to assist with their understanding of English and to this end we have started a small library at the school.. We are appealing to all who read this newsletter to contribute to this library, be it in the form of any books and/or magazines that they may have which would be suitable for young learners. These may be left at either Kenton News or Robot Furnishers for collection. Thankyou for your support!

And once more we appeal to all who read this to join BRRAG – the membership form is on our website. Our new treasurer Fanie Venter (who has taken over from Eric Smith) will be most grateful if you can help us stay in the black!

Until next time – keep cosy – and – keep alert!!!!

Wendy



The Gang