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News Sheets

June 2015

From the Editor

The committee are 3 months into their term of office and have held one formal committee meeting and one casual gathering. Gareth has itemised some projects he would like to see underway as soon as possible to improve the appearance of our little paradise.

The main one is the removal or update of the signage at the corner of the main road which is now in a sad state of repair and to construct if possible an attractive 'Welcome to Vaal Marina' sign in its place. Heather has been tasked with the project. This project was initiated some time ago but had never got off the ground. Let us hope it can come to fruition this year.



As we have an abundance of bird-life in the area it would make sense to develop some birding hot spots. With this in mind it has been proposed that we clear the vlei by the post boxes and tidy it up for the birdwatchers amongst us.

We would also like to see residents taking more care about the appearance of their properties and stands. Remember the more attractive the village is the better the value of your property. I would even go so far as to suggest that you try keeping your own street tidy and clearing up rubbish thrown down by passers-by.(see also the note from the Police re signs left for burglars) Some areas of Vaal Marina are really looking

scruffy. Mind you a lot of it is of-course the time of year.

Talking of this time of year remember that it is veld fire time. Please keep the grass on your empty stands cut short to avoid being a fire hazard. Fire breaks around your homes are also well advised. Remember that the 'working for fire' team will make fire breaks for you for a small fee if you do not wish to do it yourself.

It is the time of year for Aloes and other such plants like wild dagga that attract the sunbirds. The sunbirds common in our gardens at present are;

		
Black Sunbird	Malacite Sunbird	Whitebellied Sunbird

If you have an indigenous garden I am sure you will find these beauties around.

If you care for the environment and nature in particular you must be concerned at the number of dead birds and animals on the roads. Please try to convince your friends and family to drive more carefully and with less speed. Speed does kill!

I note that in the President Mall there are various containers for recycling. Cans, batteries, cellphones etc all have their separate boxes so please try to find the time to use them. Also at the back of the Pick n' Pay in Three Rivers Mall there are bins for paper, bottles and electronics.

Signs on your road sides to watch out for

IMPORTANT From the Police

"2" Painted on stop sign on the road	Houses in street targeted for burglary
Piles of little stones	Dogs
Two big stones together	Two old people
Stones in a row	How many people are in the house

Swastika on road	House targeted for burglary
Direction of the swastika	Indicates which house is the target
Coke tin, red cloth, crisp packet	Can expect resistance
Two coke tins	Owner is armed
Coke tin opening towards the house	Someone is home
Upright Coke tin	Nobody home
White sorghum carton, plastic bag	Easy target
Sorghum carton facing house	Target marked
White plastic bag on fence	Easy target
Green used as a direction marker	Direction criminals should proceed
Blue or blue and white (such as a clicks packet)	Easy target, someone inside will help
Simba or Lays crisp packet, normally neatly folded, but sometimes weighed down by something inside the packet.	
Packet facing the house	Owner at home
Packet facing the road	Nobody at home
Shoes and soles nearby the gate	Nobody at home (direction of shoes indicates escape route)
Wrong number on house or cell phone	Checking if you are home
Electricity switched off at the main box	Be aware of leaving the house open as people inside are targets
Strange items in front of house (like cardboard box, brick or tree branch)	Do not stop to remove as you may be a target
Brick	Normally indicates a car to be stolen

Two or three bricks (Normally new)

House robbery planned

The Police advised home-owners to immediately remove and dispose of all markers and to keep pavements neat and tidy.

Regards

Judith.

Report from the CPF

The CPF is an organisation with an oversight function set up to ensure that the police are able to give the community the service that they want and/or need. The first and main consideration of the CPF is to ensure that the police and the community can interface seamlessly and with all the benefits this can provide to the community. The CPF can bring in many other groups as affiliates and combine their efforts in community service.

After a period of total lack of interest in the Vaal Marina CPF I have to say that matters have improved by leaps and bounds. I have been in consultation with Selwyn King who has been involved with CPF for about a year as a member and is also responsible and involved with the new Neighbourhood Watch group and we agreed to see if affiliation of the NW to the CPF was feasible. This then is the new direction that the CPF is involved in pursuing with affiliate status being given to many community organisations including the Waterfront Club, the Ratepayers Association, Neighbourhood Watch, Mamello Sub Forum of the CPF and other interested bodies.

Thursday June 25th is the date of the CPF AGM and all interested people are invited to attend as observers at 17h00 at the Community Centre

Wally.

Sewage Controversy

(Article taken from Vaal Dam Properties news letter)

Let me start off by saying that there has been a lot of talk about raw sewage being pumped into the Vaal Dam. I have spent several hours getting to the bottom of this and even met with several parties. I even spoke to the Director of Water Affairs at the Vaal Dam personally this afternoon.

Here is what I have found out....

1. Most of the press is speculative and completely wrong. No one is pumping raw sewage from Bloemfontein to the Vaal Dam. This is absolute rubbish.
2. There have been lots of photos of pipes being laid into the ground. These photos

are in fact for a fresh water off take and are for the most part incorrect.

3. The problem lies with the village of Deneysville which is situated right at the dam wall, where the water then flows down to the Vaal River. Any pollution goes over the wall. We do not get it.

4. It appears that the sewage processing plant has a pump station that pumps the **PROCESSED** water uphill before being discharged into the dam. This is **approved and monitored and clean water**. This is what all towns have done and has been in place for decades.

5. Now because the pump station keeps breaking down, the local council has decided to build a new pipeline that will rely on gravity to discharge the water. In other words taking the pump station out of the equation, which is clearly a good thing as they have no clue as to how to keep it running efficiently. This idea on paper is a good idea. However it needs to be certified, approved and it needs to pass certain environmental hurdles. Some of which are still pending. So at the moment it can't go ahead.

6. In the interim the people who run the pump station continue to mess up and as a result there is the occasional leakage. A solution to this would be to build an additional storage tank and to upgrade the pump station. However this requires technical skill which is clearly lacking.

IN SUMMARY

This is the water that we drink. Everything is approved and for the vast majority of the time all is fine. Any potential mishaps that may occur, happens at the wall and get immediately flushed out of the dam. All of us are up stream from this. Vaalmarina is over 20kms away from the wall. This is not another Hartes in the making, this is just sorting out a glitch at Deneysville. I am pleased to say that the environmentalists are all over this and keeping everyone in line. This is a good thing.

I FOR ONE AM NOT CONCERNED, however sensational and inaccurate reporting does not help.

Regards Adrian.

The RPA Committee is as follows:-

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Judith

Editor

jhE June 19 2015



Tree Fund

From our previous newsletter we mentioned that it would be good to start a tree fund. So far we have had a R 1000 donation from Trevor Coulthard, some small trees donated by Michelle Milne and a confirmation from Fred that Vaal Nest would incorporate their ongoing tree planting program structure some how. Those that get involved will have more say in the placement



Bike track

So far Mitzy has had no requests on this project so we guess the younger generation are happy with the way things are at the moment. We did receive an email from Michelle raising concern with the noise linked with this sport and that is duly noted and agreed by all of us.



Mountain Bike track

The mountain bike and bmx track has also had no response so far, I guess it is not what is wanted. The big question is "What do you want" and is it achievable with the limited resources we have?



Fly Vaal Marina

The airstrip has had no response from anyone so I guess the only person who would make use of it would be Gareth. It is unlikely that Walter would make this valuable land available if it has no commercial benefit to any one. The option is still on the table.

of their donations and we would like to thank them all for starting to help us show the visiting public what a grand little town we have here.

Membership

Thankfully membership is on the rise. A big welcome to those both new and old into the fold. At our first committee meeting it was decided to clean out the data base that we had inherited and an invoice was sent out to all on the list. This has caused some confusion between land owners and others but it was felt that this was the only way to start. Those that did not pay have been removed from the list and we apologise for the inconvenience caused.

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General meeting

It has been brought to our attention that some people would like a general meeting to be held. We think it would work around spring and we will try to choose a date that works for most people. You do have the info on the web site www.vaalmarinarpa.co.za as well as that given within the newsletters. If you are one of the unfortunate members who don't have access to the internet then please inform Judith who will endeavour to print out the newsletters for you. Apart from that please contact one of the committee for assistance.

Thanks

Gareth



Food for thought!

An English professor wrote the words:

“A woman without her man is nothing” on the chalkboard and asked his students to punctuate it correctly.

ALL of the males in the class wrote:

“A woman, without her man, is nothing”

All the females in the class wrote:

“A woman: without her, man is nothing”

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