

A united voice is a powerful voice

February 2019

admin@groenkloof.info; 074 740 4444

VISION 2019

As your Groenkloof Residents' Association we welcome 2019 and would like to wish all our fellow Groenkloof residents a prosperous, peaceful and blessed 2019. This new year ushers in an exciting new direction for the association, the committee and everyone in our area. This newsletter marks the start of our new initiative. As property prices in our neighbourhood continue to

outperform many other suburbs, we are reminded of the values that make Groenkloof one of the most desirable places to live. We believe that this is reflected in the dynamic new brand we have developed for the association.

* See more about our new invigorated committee for 2019 in this newsletter.

OUR NEW BRAND

BRAND RATIONALE

Groenkloof is a friendly neighbourhood with the most beautiful reserve on our doorsteps. The old GRA brand has gone through a profound transformation. This change was brought about by influences from postmodern culture and the way that communications technology is creating new opportunities for us all to connect.

Green is the predominant colour in the new Groenkloof Residents' Association brand. This not only alludes to the name of our suburb, but also communicates the calmness and natural beauty that exist here. Green also represents stability, peace, environmental consciousness, and abundance. Again, these are all qualities that we associate with Groenkloof.

We decided to focus on a symbol representing leaves. The powerful symbolism of trees and leaves is apparent in concepts such as the Tree of Life, and the ancestral heritage of each resident as depicted in family trees. Groenkloof is a place where families can put down roots by creating lasting



relationships. The start of a new year is also the ideal time to 'turn over a new leaf' and make positive changes in our lives. Leaves are the first link in the circle of life and natural energy that joins all living things together, and enables us to achieve growth and rebirth.

The Groenkloof Residents' Association is dedicated to growing relationships, assisting residents with community needs and helping to shape and improve everyone's quality of life. This is summed up in the powerful tagline: "My Neighbour... My Community".

HOW WE ADD VALUE

What is a Residents' Association?

A Residents' Association (RA) is a local group, made up of residents who represent the interests of everyone living in a particular area or building. Membership of Residents' Associations is open to all local tenants and leaseholders. For an RA to be successful and effective, it must represent all residents in the area it serves; it must be welcoming, united and inclusive.

Why are we worth having?

A united voice is a powerful voice. Coming together with other people who share our living environment means that we as Groenkloof Residents' Association can positively influence and shape the quality of the services local community receives and improve residents' quality of life. We can achieve so much more when we speak with one voice.

**WE WELCOME OUR
NEW NEIGHBOURS
TO GROENKLOOF!**

We would like to extend a warm Groenkloof welcome to Dr Samantha, Brad and Kayleigh Gregory as well as Diaan Roode and family. We trust that Groenkloof will soon feel like home. New neighbours, please contact us! Send your e-mail enquiries to admin@groenkloof.info

A united voice is a powerful voice

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE

We are excited in preparing for the year ahead. Knowing that the Groenkloof Residents' Association has the support of the community makes our task so much easier – and we're immensely grateful for that support. Our suburb demographics are well represented on the committee and we have a number of exciting projects planned for 2019.

Our focus will still be Town Planning. We all love the peaceful nature of our suburb and we are determined to keep it this way. We rely on community involvement, so please let us know if there are any new developments or businesses you want us to look into.

Portfolio members:

We are thankful that **Dean Erasmus**, **Derrick Kourie**, **Lawrence Nowosenetz**, **Lloyd Modimogale**, **Ivan Lazarus** and **Martin Ryan** are committing their time once again to the GRA exco committee for 2019 and we are grateful to also have new members this year. Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

Tanja Dekker and her family moved to Groenkloof in 2011, Tanja has joined the GRA exco to manage our marketing and communications. In her very short time on the GRA exco she has already made her mark by designing our fresh, new brand. Thank you, Tanja!

Sarel Swanepoel is also new on the GRA exco but is no stranger to our community. He moved to Groenkloof back in 2008 and is well-known to his neighbours as he is always available and keen to help. He is now offering his time and resources to assist the GRA, particularly regarding maintenance in the suburb.

Another new member of the committee is **Gustav du Plessis**, or "Gus" as he's also known. Gustav and family moved into their newly built home in Groenkloof almost 5 years ago. He is passionate about nature, health and family life. Responsible for the environmental portfolio, he will be putting this passion to good use in contributing to a community where our families can live healthier lives by actively enjoying our surrounding parks and reserve.

The committee also welcomes **Francois Geringer**. Before moving to Groenkloof, his morning routine included driving from Greenside to Groenkloof and he would always take the time to jog through the neighbourhood before going to work in Brooklyn. Francois moved to Groenkloof in 2011 and is handling community events for this year. The first event he is planning for the community is a wine-tasting event, which is bound to be very popular. Watch this space for more details of this and other exciting events.

Martin Dorfling moved to Groenkloof in 2014. He joined the GRA exco in 2019 as the representative of the Community Policing Forum. Martin is very involved in the CPF and we are grateful for his input in the GRA on matters of

security and safety.

We would like to thank **Zeno Apostolides** for his excellent work in the CPF.

Gerda Grundlingh has lived in Groenkloof since September 2002. She says that as a little girl, without even having seen what the neighbourhood looked like, she would often tell her parents that one day she would live in Groenkloof. As it turns out, Groenkloof found her. Gerda says that "Groen" and "Kloof" are two words that for her are synonymous with "Peace", which explains why she is so passionate about preserving the peace here in Groenkloof.

To help us communicate more effectively with all members of the GRA, we need to ensure that we have a correct and updated database. **Please email admin@groenkloof.info with your name, telephone number and street address.**

This will help us ensure that our database is up to date – and that we can keep you informed of all the latest Groenkloof news.

This will be my first year as chairman of the GRA. I accepted this challenge only because of the continues support from Dean and Derrick on the management of the GRA. We are sad to say good bye to Graeme Fenwick, Nicky Russell and Loodjie van Wyk, who is not able to assist again this year. We value their contribution to our community and I want to thank them for their time and the effort that they put in. Since, for personal reasons, I was unable to commit to service on the GRA exco in the past, this is my first year of involvement. After a challenging start to 2019 I am excited about the year ahead, as is the rest of the exco team.

Thank you Groenkloof – we look forward to being of service to our community in 2019!

Mia Geringer

The Geringer Family



GROENKLOOF RECYCLING

Recycling options available

Contact Francois Geringer at 082 854 7202



A united voice is a powerful voice

“A TREASURE TO BE PRESERVED AND ENJOYED”

...was the comment from one of the groups of people who enjoyed doing the short, circular, self-guided hike (with information signs) through the 'wild', indigenous bush and interesting rock formations of the peaceful Eugene Marais Park. Other comments were: “So lovely - a piece of bush right in the middle of our Village!”; “So lekker!”; “Was soos 'n mini vakansie.” Open from sunrise to sunset on the last Saturday and Sunday of each month, entry to the park is free. You'll find Eugene Marais Park at 87 Van Wouw St., Groenkloof. GPS coordinates are S25°46'39", E28°13'12". Dogs are permitted but please keep them on a leash, to avoid disturbing ground-nesting birds.

For more information, please contact **Alan Urban** of Friends of Groenkloof Nature Reserve on 072 213 2176.

COMMUNITY EVENTS by Alan Urban



MAKING KLAPPERKOP SAFE AGAIN



Once a favourite star-gazing spot or place from which to view the bright lights of the city, Klapperkop Nature Reserve had begun to acquire a more negative reputation after a spate of criminal incidents. The Friends of Groenkloof Nature Reserve have been actively involved in making this special area safe again, whether by day or night.

A series of meetings were held to come up with a plan to improve the situation, and the following measures were put in place:

1. Clearing of dense vegetation

2. Notices informing visitors of the security risks

3. Increased patrols by TMPD and TNC

4. Monitoring of the two entrances

Fencing repairs and maintenance The friends of Groenkloof raised funds for the improvements to the fences and the installation of water tanks, Wendy houses and eco-toilets. The HOA, working together with private security companies, coordinated raids with SAPS during which several people were arrested.

Cedric Thenga

GROEN(KLOOF) ENERGY

Over the past few years, we all felt the pain and inconvenience of power interruptions. The reasons for this vary, depending on who you talk to. We will not try to analyse this here. The fact is we want to find a solution as consumers - there are various alternatives. This will happen in parallel to CoT addressing the supply side. It is not the responsibility of the GRA Committee to find solutions, but we believe our role is to get inputs from residents on looking at ways to facilitate options as a collective. Some will need backup only, others want to go fully off-grid, others will have a modular approach. Many residents have already taken their own initiative by installing backup generators, solar geysers and other solar options. We are currently engaging with professionals in the solar industry to look at possible options, cost reduction and good service (as a collective). We will merely aim at a platform for bulk purchase from a supplier for those residents who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity. The GRA Committee will have no commercial responsibility. We will

merely try to create a platform for engagement.

There are solar installers, suppliers and professionals residing in Groenkloof and we encourage them to contact us and provide us with their details.

In the previous newsletter we indicated the intent to facilitate the consideration of renewable energy solutions, such as solar. If you have solutions, have tried some solutions or have a passion for green energy, please forward your details to our e-mail address at the top of the page. We will use this to find a way of assisting residents to look at their own options.

We will then consider how we take it to our residents.

Thank you for your support.

- Werner Comrie



A united voice is a powerful voice



This year, we will be running competitions with each newsletter. **The prize for this first competition is two tickets to our first community event of 2019.**

We are currently looking for a name for this GRA newsletter. We already have two suggestions: Raasblaar and Bushbaby. **If you have any other suggestions, please email them to admin@groenkloof.info** Voting for the name will be done by members of the exco committee. Closing date for the competition is 20 Feb 2019. The winner will be announced in the next newsletter, so get thinking and submit your ideas soon.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- ✓ **Eugene Marais Park:** Open every last Saturday and Sunday of the month. Entrance is Free
Alan Urban 072 213 2176
- ✓ **Annual Potjiekos competition:** NG Kerk
16 February 2019
Competition entry is free and the potjiekos will be sold at R60 per plate.
Dean Erasmus 074 075 8333
- ✓ **Annual GRA Wine and Picnic Fundraising Event:**
23 March 2019- Tickets are limited.
Francois Geringer 082 854 7202

To include your event in our next newsletter please contact admin@groenkloof.info Note: Impactful advertising opportunities are also available.



*We Welcome
Dr Samantha Gregory!*

Dr Samantha's contact number: 012 340 0286
Open: 08h00 to 19h00

**1 FEB
2019**

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

We need funds to be able to protect our suburb. We rely on the voluntary contributions from residents. The GRA subscriptions are separate from the Groenkloof Safety Initiative (GSI) subscriptions. Annual subscriptions are R300 for 2019 but we welcome any donations. Contributions can be made through the website or through direct deposit to:

Groenkloof Residents' Association
FNB, Brooklyn, Branch number: 251345
Account number: 62054810207
Reference: Your street name and number
We will also be phoning residents to update our database and to synchronise to the GSI database.

If you are a new resident and would like to join the Groenkloof Safety Initiative (GSI) please contact Mr Graham de Lange @ 066 304 6611.