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The Emmarentia Post

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The Official Publication of the Emmarentia Residents' Association

www.facebook.com/Emmarentia-Residents-Association-JHB

Remembering early Emmarentia

I bet you didn't know that long-time Emmarentia resident, Brian le Gassick, once adorned many teenagers' walls in the 1970s.

He was the founder and leader of the Staccatos, a rock band that he set up whilst at Damelin College. In 1969 they released the song, *Cry to Me*, which stayed for 38 weeks on the hit parade and was awarded four gold discs; the first SA artistes ever to achieve this.

He moved to Emmarentia as a young boy with his parents to a newly-built house just below the dam in July 1950.

He attended Greenside Primary

(then called Greenside Extension School) and Roosevelt High (neither Greenside High nor Emmarentia Primary existed then).

Saturday afternoons you'd find him and his mates at The Rex—a 'bioscope' in Greenside. (Where the Carlton hair place is now).

"It was a real bug-house," says Brian. We used to go to the matinee and it was cowboy movies all the way. And we'd swap our comics there."

It was a time when you could see vultures (aasvoëls) on Northcliff Hill from Emmarentia.

"The Council would take all the carcasses and anything that had died and dump them on the top of Aasvoëlkop. It was a helleva long way out of town then."

ERA continues to interview long-time residents and newer residents of the suburb. If you'd like to share your stories and/or your photos or help us gather those stories, please contact us on info@era.org.za



Brian paddling on Emmarentia dam as a boy

What ERA is and isn't:

* **ERA is only as strong as its members:** With only 90 households out of an estimated 1250-1500 households in Emmarentia signed up, our voice is small and we cannot say we represent everyone. We need more members to make our voice large so we can do more.

* **ERA Exco members are all volunteers:** The Exco meets once a month and has nine members. Some of us do not work full-time but are involved in other organisations while others work a full-time job and do their Exco work in their free time. Exco has the following portfolios:

Chair: Ayanda Mjekula; Vice chair: Cas Boorany; Treasurer: Brian Askew; Building, planning and heritage: Gemey Abrahams; Communication: Claire Hoffman; Events: Anne Askew; Infrastructure: Peter Herold; Newsletter/

website: Jenny Grice; Security: Geraldine Connell.

* **ERA has two sub-committees—history and environment:** We have co-opted some residents who are helping us record Emmarentia's history while another team has been working with City Parks to clear out alien invasive plants from the Jhb Botanic Gardens. We always need more volunteers to help us.

* **Check out our website and Facebook page** for more info. Recent post: 2018 ERA AGM minutes

* **Wanted:**

• Someone to take up the post of ERA secretary to record ERA minutes, prepare agendas etc.

• Volunteers to organise Christmas in July for the Emmarentia Eventide Home, e-mail us on: info@era.org.za

FAQs on WOZA

Woza, the app developed by an Emmarentia resident, for Emmarentia residents, is up and running. Every month, a percentage of what you pay for the app goes towards 'Let's Work' and the Emmarentia/Greenside Neighbourhood Watch. These are some questions residents have been asking about WOZA:

I was under the impression we do NOT need to open the app before shaking it in an incident?

That's correct, but only for Android phones. For iPhones, the app needs to be open in the background.

What effect does it have on the battery usage?

For Android phones, the only time battery usage is high is when a panic is triggered and GPS is used. At other times it does not draw on battery more than any other app. This can be verified by checking 'battery usage by app' under Settings on your phone.

For iPhones, having the app on in the background permanently, does kill the battery. We suggest iPhone users put the app on in the background only when they use their car, especially at night, or when they go into more risky areas.

I see my bank has also jumped on the "Woza" bandwagon; is it exactly the same service?

No, WOZA has several unique and additional features:

- Shake functionality to call for help
- Home panic button linked to your OWN security company
- Financial support for community initiatives like Let's Work and the Community Patrollers
- 1 200+ trained armed responders countrywide.

Sign up for WOZA today. Read more on: <http://mobwatch.co.za/FAQ.php>

Getting rid of invasive alien plants in Johannesburg Botanical Gardens

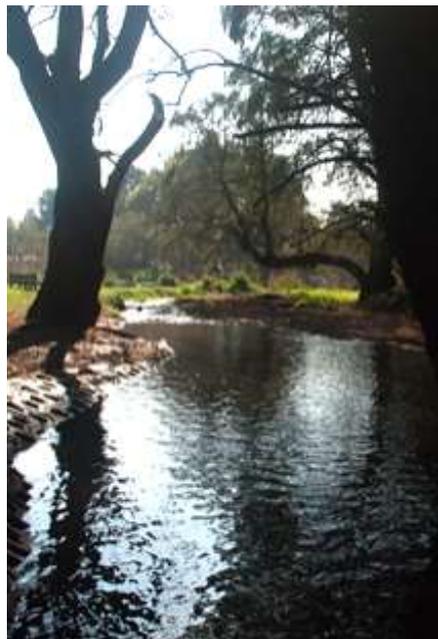
In the latter part of 2018, some keen Emmarentia residents, as part of ERA's environmental sub-committee, got together and decided to meet with Johannesburg Botanic Gardens to see if together we could start to take control of the invasive alien plants that were clogging up the dam, the river course and the forests, particularly in the dog-walking section.

Our first joint effort was in October 2018. Boosted by workers from City Parks, schoolchildren and residents and a team of chainsaw operators, almost 100 people picked up litter, dog poops; dug out and pulled out invasive weeds and felled and poisoned privets and other invasive trees that were taking over the forest near the main dam.

After that ERA's environmental committee organised a number of work days which were supported by residents and schoolkids and on two occasions by the Let's Work team. We finally managed to clear a passage through the weeds at the outflow to the top dam; other volunteers continued to tackle the weeds. We started to see progress.

Rain dampens our efforts

And then in 2019, it rained, and it rained and it rained. Weeds sprouted more than ever before, the outflow of the top dam clogged up again. We started to get despondent. We organised a few more work Saturdays but unfortunately attendance by residents and volunteers declined steadily, with almost no support at the last workday.



Contract workers have cleared the invasive plants that were clogging the entrance and exit of the top dam

But City Parks' contracted team of workers carried on. Day after day, in the boiling sun, they continued to pull out the weeds that had regrown, digging up dead tree trunks that had been poisoned, tackling parts that we hadn't touched, always supervised by City Parks.

We owe City Parks and its workers a huge thank you. Without them, we wouldn't have achieved many of the targets that we had jointly agreed on.

ERA will continue with our work days once Spring is back. Watch this space!

Upcoming events Jun-Aug

Brace yourself—it's winter and that time of year when lots of people visit our suburb. Forewarned is forearmed!

JUN	
8	Shot-hole borer walkabout, Jhb Botanic Gardens: 11-1pm
19-20	Resolve your billing queries with COJ—Ferndale Rec Centre, 38 Harley St, Ferndale, 9h00-15h00
26	Domestic Workers Watch, Sailing Club (no charge); 10-11.30am. All domestic workers welcome.
JUL	
24	Domestic Workers Watch, Sailing Club. 10-11.30am.
28	Walk the Talk, Marks Park
AUG	
4	Liefde by die dam, JBG
9	Women's Day Divas, JBG
11	Parklife, JBG
24-25	JUMA/JURA, Marks Park, some road closures

City Power news

- Smart meter installation verified contractors

Look out for criminals posing as City Power smart meter installers. The following are verified City Power contractors for Emmarentia:

Ricardo Septoo - Teamleader City Power ID 50552

Abram Mosala - technician-YTN216GP City Power ID 50568

Busani Mndaweni -technician-HNS311GP City Power ID 15421

Ellias Tsepe -technician -

WRY097GP City Power ID 50559

Zakhile Pike - technician - WRY097GP CityPower ID 50560

Jermaine Tun-cut off -HL16SJ GP—09532

Any problems or concerns please contact the City Power Risk Control room on 0114907900 or call your security company.

- New meter readers

Tabuka SUSA are the new meter readers for Region B (including Emmarentia). Send your reading between 20-27 of each month by logging onto <https://app.munispace.co.za/citypower/Login>

Include your contact details, name of account, account number, and picture of the meter showing the reading. Or phone 011 493 0293 or e-mail quality@susafrika.co.za

CAP ups its public space monitoring

This long, grey pole erected on a pavement in Emmarentia with what looks like a wheel half way up it, is a camera installed by Vumacam at the request of CAP. There are 10 others like it in the Emmarentia/Greenside area.

Already a number of residents have expressed reservations that these cameras are impinging on their privacy because they look into their properties.

"We are extremely sensitive to resident privacy," responds CAP COO, Sean Jammy. "We ensure that any views into private property are either adjusted, or digitally obscured. There are no views into private property as a result. We have



extensive measures to vet our staff, and ensure that footage is curated with the highest possible standards of privacy."

The cameras have "licence plate recognition, which digitises number plates, checks them against our various databases and alerts the control room of any suspect vehicle

in the area," says Jammy. Footage is recorded, stored securely and "only released to SAPS or another authorised party."

CAP has covered the cost of 10 of these cameras from CAP subscribers. More will be erected if/when CAP gets more subscribers.