

FLEETWOOD ESTATE TIMES

March Issue

Welcome to the March edition of the Fleetwood Times

*This newsletter will serve as a platform for our community to collaborate, communicate and contribute to the success of Fleetwood. We will be distributing this so if anyone has anything to contribute, some information or maybe you are selling something please contact debbie @ debbie.hunter@firstdistribution.com
Also please visit our website www.fleetwoodestate.co.za*

A FOREWORD FROM THE VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FLEETWOOD HOME OWNERS BOARD

By Siva Naidoo



It's almost two and half years since I moved into the Fleetwood Estate after relocating from Durban. Undeniably it was a big move for me – almost a culture shock in many respects. The vibe here in Johannesburg is very different from where I was brought up in a small sugar town called Tongaat- some 40 kilometres on the north coast of Durban – just 10 minutes before the Dolphin Coast where the scenic seaside town of Ballito is situated.

It's been almost six months since we came into office as Directors of the Fleetwood Board. Our primary responsibility is to ensure that the affairs of our Home Owners Association is professionally run and managed. Apart from having a fiduciary duty and ensuring the practice of good corporate governance there are other important matters that receive our attention.

However whilst safety and security of our homeowners and their tenants features high up on our agenda, we are also strongly committed to building a socially cohesive community within the Fleetwood Estate. I have always advocated for an active citizenry.

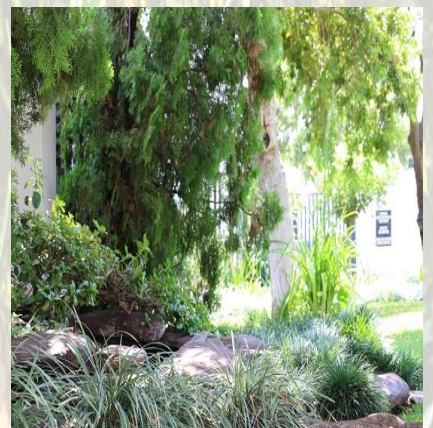
If there is a problem that remains unattended in our estate or in our community, we can do something about it. We have a right to live a life free from fear and want in an environment that is healthy and safe. Let us not wait for someone else to do something. South Africa has one of the best Constitutions in the world. It gives us the right to democratic, accountable, functional and responsive government – and to citizen participation. It guarantees the right of ordinary citizens like us to make our voices heard. It is up to us to find out what opportunities for citizen participation are available, and to speak up! If we do nothing, we have no right to complain. There are many channels and opportunities available to ordinary citizens for representation and participation in decision making bodies.

We have the right to nominate and vote for candidates for public office to represent and fight for the interests of our community. But we must act. We must participate in elections to positively influence decision making at a local municipality level.

If we have the opportunity we can attend open council and ward meetings. We also can write letters, petition the authorities if we cannot attend meetings.

If anything, the COVID pandemic has taught us many life lessons. We are but temporary sojourners in this world. So if there is any good that we could do, let us do it now, let's make a positive contribution towards all living entities. It's the right thing to do. Let us Love All – Serve All. Let us Help Ever- Hurt Never.

We live in a beautiful estate and in a lovely country and it is up to us as citizens to make it work. The power is in our hands.



GARDENS BY DI

March in the Garden



According to the calendar it should be early autumn, but in South Africa, Mother Nature's sun is still hot and sitting high in the sky with yet no great hurry to set at the end of the day. Enjoy this special month by running around with your wheelbarrow filled with dark compost to nurture the soil. Plant like there is no tomorrow, feed everything that has given you pleasure so that it does it again, and go shopping for winter- and spring-flowering bulbs.

It's time to lift and divide agapanthus, wild iris (Dietes), penstemon, campanula and asters. Cut them back, lift them out, split-up and re-plant into freshly composted soil

Sow Namaqualand daisies, sweet peas, poppies, primula, foxgloves, hollyhock, larkspur – Don't be scared to sow the flowers that you love. It is easy and success is guaranteed if you just follow the instructions on the seed packet closely. Sow seeds for new lawn grass, especially in colder areas where Shade Over and All Seasons Evergreen grow well



In the veggie garden sow fast-growing greens like lettuce and spinach, and also start preparing to plant winter crops like cabbage, cauliflower, parsnips and broad beans

Hot tip:

Before it gets cold and the job becomes uncomfortable, clean out your water features.

Check that your pump is clean and in good condition. You do not want to do this in mid winter!

Spray or sprinkle granules around your conifers against the dreaded Italian cypress aphid which becomes active in cool weather.

INTERESTING FACTS THE LONEHILL KOPPIE

The Lonehill Koppie stands out as a lone koppie on the northern border of the city's suburbs, 28 km north of the city centre, and is a reminder of what Johannesburg looked like before it was settled. It is a rocky veld with small streams trickling, dotted with shrubs, small trees and knee-high grasses. Guinea fowl and porcupines used to roam the area, and it is now populated with hundreds of dassies. There's a small dam, called Lonehill Loch, around 200 metres to its north, which is a popular walking spot for local residents.

The Koppie is largely made up of large, very old boulders, called tor rocks, with trees and indigenous shrubs now almost obscuring the rocks except for the topmost boulders.

. These days it is surrounded by clusters of homes and developments in what is now the suburb of Lonehill. It is a plot of around 20 acres, surrounded by veld, which is around 80 metres high known as Lonehill Loch. It is unlocked only on weekends, allowing hikers and picnickers to climb to the top, or just lay out a picnic blanket in its surrounding grassy area.^[1]

The veld contains three Stone Age furnaces. These were excavated in the 1960s by Professor Revil Mason, formerly head of archaeology at Wits University. The furnaces were hidden by Mason, to protect them, because they would need a protective structure built around them and there was no funding to develop the site.

Mason estimated that the furnaces date to around 1600, the same period as the Melville Koppies furnace. Bits of slag were found near the furnaces, on large flat rocks with indentations in them that were used for grinding. Near the furnace site is another area where pottery was manufactured, fenced like the furnace area. Half-way up the Koppie there are remnants of stone walls that would have been a kraal and living areas.



SECURITY TIPS

We need to take responsibility for security both in our complex and our community . We need to be vigilant and conscious about our safety Please see below some good safety advice as we could always use a refresher... (taken from the LRA newsletter)

1.Never allow vehicles to follow you through the security boom or to tailgate you.

2.Make sure to take good security measures including bars on windows and security doors.

3.Do not leave house doors unlocked and open just because you live in a complex.

4.Be exceptionally vigilant when entering or leaving your complex.

5.Be alert at all times and wait for the gates to close before driving off.

6.Never buzz a visitor in unless you know exactly who they are.

*7.All secure codes should be treated as confidential.
Always keep your remote controls in secure places.*

8.Keep your panic buttons close on hand at all times.

Take up any security concerns with your Trustees

Even if your complex has perimeter security and access control at the gate, do not neglect your individual unit's security. Every home in a complex or road closure should be fitted with its own alarm system or panic buttons.

Lastly, it is vital to have a security conscious mindset. Get to know your neighbours and their staff. Watch each other's backs and report anyone and anything that looks suspicious.



GENERAL

CLEANING UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Please ensure that you take doggy bags on your walk and clean up /leave the common property and people's verge areas in the state you would like to find them

CLASSIFIEDS

If you have anything you wish to advertise – please contact Debbie on debbie.hunter@firstdistrubtion.com

