



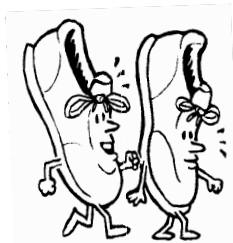
COLLINS CONNECTION

January – February 2009

Hello the Salesian Family

The star in the East has long disappeared and we are back and trying to run on full throttle but it seems the 'Red Tape' at Officialdom has only just heard of that so things have been slow to get moving again. We are thus only half back on our feet! I am beginning to understand why Job had such a lot to say and why his patience ran out! We are still very determined that this year will see more than a wheelbarrow on site!

We have had success in two new areas. We have appointed Klunene CC to do the water and sewer report required by the Council for the zoning permission. We have been assured that this will not take more than two weeks! The Road Traffic Management Study has been undertaken by Mariteng. This seems to us to be a total waste of time and money because the traffic volume for the area we are building in is very low. We are right at the end of Ennerdale and face the open veld (fields) and a dead end. However, there is no way around this procedure.



Back on full tilt! Things are looking up?! We are hoping so. We have had a few conversations with some very good people regarding the sewer and water report and the traffic impact study. It seems we will be in possession of them in a week or two. The whole zoning application will then arrive on the Town Planner's desk in Johannesburg City Council and we can then set up a meeting and try and persuade the authorities to speed things up. We are determined to be on site by the end of May this year...Watch this space or watch our slow slide into clinical depression. We are

relying on our steadfast friend Fr Declan and his Irish charm to help us avoid this situation.

We are on the move... Another exciting development is that the SDBs have very kindly let us move the current computer project to their Novitiate House. The premises in 4th Avenue is too cramped for the present intake and the FMA want to start their alterations of this house so that young children who do not have parents and find themselves stranded and without a home will be able to have a safe place to stay until they can be helped by the social services. We will then move again when the Centre is built...oh happy day! We are now running around trying to get the new room ready. Good to be on the road again!

On the move!

So what is happening in the vegetable department?? Lots of good crops but sadly the local rats have discovered that they have a taste for ripe and juicy tomatoes. They just help themselves! In spite of this the team are doing very well indeed. They are on a ten week training programme at a local farm, only this time they are doing the teaching! Wits University have, through Ekukhanyeni's network, submitted a proposal to the City Council in Johannesburg to hopefully secure funds for the Permaculture Project Team to train 10 schools in the area. Hold thumbs while praying very hard. We commend Ekukhanyeni for their hard work and achievements. We are proud to be their network partners. Victor Qhali, who is still the project leader and who is supervised by Ryan Dickey at the Lawley Training Garden, is part of the new training team and he is doing very well. We are proud of him! Thank you again Ryan Dickey and Liza Rossi!



Ryan has completed the permaculture training manual. This is the first of its kind in South Africa. It is currently being translated into Zulu. When this is done Don Bosco Educational Projects will assist in getting the layout and printing done. We hope this will happen within the next month. We are happy to help where we can!

**New permaculture training site at a crèche in Lawley.
The 'before' look....**

The same site at Thokozani crèche after the training and growing...

**Green, green grow the cabbages
oh...who sang that?**

Our Craft group have been out promoting their stock. A local shopkeeper in Lenasia has bought



some good from them and he will see how the sales go. We will visit some flea markets in Rosebank, Johannesburg next week to see if we can get a stall keeper to take some of our shoes, hats and bags. If anybody knows of any outlets for us we would welcome your input and support. We have also secured some willing agents in orange Farm to try and sell stuff for us. There may also be an opportunity

We hope your month goes well and will chat again in March. Time is marching on no doubt!

Overheard from my window: One Takkie to the Other: We burn leather while Bernie burns candles which brings us to the burning question of when we will achieve some concrete evidence of all the burning! Oh well, at least where there is smoke there is fire...

Until next time keep the leather burning!



Bernie Mullen