



COLLINS CONNECTION

November–December 2007

Hello the Salesian Family

We takkies have been fascinated by a variety of stiletto heeled ladies, gentlemen in suits and ties and many formal speakers on Corporate Social Investment strategies. In other words, we have taken good stock of our shoddy shoes and have now begun to take some action with regard to accessing the big pot of corporate billions that is rumoured to be available to folk like us! All we need is a few little millions! What for you ask...Take a peek! This is and aerial view of the project.

Yes, this is really what all the jogging has been about! We are very proud to announce our 3D 'artists impression' plan of Erf 4623....you know, the one that has been hitting the headlines for the past year because of a certain pastor's persistence that he should remain a free tenant.



We spent the last committee meeting of the year with our architect, Glen Brydges, and were treated to a series of 3D views so that we could finally assess our site plan and ensure that it is in fact what we envisioned for the project. Unfortunately, we can only treat you to a 2D slide but it does give you some idea of how we will look. Want another peek? Coming up!



A view from the south-west to the north-east so the Declan Collins Centre is in the foreground with the Laura Vicuna Centre on the far side. The area opposite the car in the park is the administration block with the staff room on the opposite side of the walkway.

More? Definitely!

Here we have a view of the front entrance looking from south to north. The signboard reads: 'Don Bosco Educational Projects: Laura Vicuna and Declan Collins Educational Centre'. We are so pleased we could pop! Please send us money?!

We have not been idle regarding funding proposals. We have made three new contacts and they have indicated that January 2008 will be the time to submit proposals. Submitting them is not a problem but there is always a long wait before the positive or negative response. It is therefore a good thing that we have had so much training in the virtue of patience! Does anyone need a lesson from the experts?



We have been very busy with other entertainments: we had Carlos de Cárcer of Red deporte from Spain visit us. He had very interesting things to say about the donation for the hall and we are now clearer regarding how the money will be allocated and administered. Carlos also attended the Soccerex conference and exhibition that was held in Sandton. He gained much insight into the arrangements for 2010. We are hoping for a new pair of takkies for the strenuous games ahead!

We stood in for Sandy Dowling at another conference last week. This was hosted by the Department of Social Development. It concerned the relationship and funding expectations of the National Religious Leaders Forum and the Department. We are clearer now concerning the format funding proposals need to follow if they are to be successfully considered by the Government. We got itchy feet because the red tape was so restraining. We sent all the information to Sandy Dowling and hope that she will be able to analyse it. We fell short of the IQ requirements!

We were not successful in obtaining permission to extend the permaculture garden in Lawley. This is a sad announcement because the project is vibrant and the people are committed and keen. However, we hope there will be other opportunities in the New Year. We did manage to collect another load of donated goods from Veronica Bergström and her friends. Thank you very much!

ZTE have also deposited their donation so that in January we can get going with the craft project at Ennerdale. We are very grateful and look forward to welcoming Sister Rosario from Italy. Sister will launch and run this project for us. Lesedi Trust is standing by for our proposal submission. We look forward to pricing equipment and materials. We love a bit of shopping!

The year has been a very busy one and we are looking forward to a rest at the seaside. We hope your Christmas is filled with love and peace. May you and your loved ones be blessed.

We are very sad to have to say goodbye to Sandy Dowling who has been our very efficient liaison at the Salesian Planning and Development Office in Cape Town and who has been a tower of strength and encouragement during our long saga with the Pastor. She has also worked hard to help raise funds for us. Thank you Sandy and may your new journey be happy and fulfilling. Please keep in touch with us! We will miss you very much.

A final view of our future home: this is the main walkway from the entrance to the hall. See you there, one fine day! Please bring your best shoes and put your best foot forward!



Overheard from my window: “ ‘Christmiss’ is when you go on holiday and miss the nativity play because Jesus doesn’t feel like being born again!” Yes, well who can blame him, what with all the commercial hype and no room at the inn of many human hearts! Please do be there with your presence and have a good one!

Thank you for your support and encouragement during the year. We appreciate that very much.

The office will be closed from Friday 14 December 2007 .We will be back on 7th January 2008.



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