



Making Claremont
a better place for all

The Claremont Clarion

Official newsletter of the Claremont Improvement District Company (CIDC)

Issue 12 Aug / Sept 2008 www.claremontcentral.co.za

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Claremont's new bus terminus brings commuter relief

After years of discussion, bureaucratic and construction delays Claremont, at last, boasts a fully-fledged, brand new bus terminus. The completion of the world class Newry Street terminus represents a significant milestone in the R24-million public transport interchange project, which includes the completed taxi rank and holding area. The interchange in turn forms part of the bigger R46-million urban upgrade project, of which the construction of the R22-million Claremont Boulevard, a joint initiative between the City of Cape Town and the Claremont Improvement District Company (CIDC), forms part.

In recent years there has been a marked increase in demand for public transport into and from Claremont, largely due to the growth within the area and also because of economic factors. Anwar Ally, Operations Manager for Golden Arrow Bus Services (GABS), comments: "Claremont is fast becoming an important hub for bus passengers. The rejuvenation of the CBD and increase in bus users are testimony to this. We are pleased that the interchange has been upgraded as the new facility will provide our customers with a pleasant travel experience and also enhance the image of public transport."

The new terminus has 12 loading bays, catering specifically for buses originating from the Metro South East with Claremont as end destination. These buses do not enter the Main Road at all, while buses running along the Main Road route, in the Wynberg to Cape Town direction, run on a separate route and do not utilise the new terminus. The adjacent taxi rank has 8 aisles with capacity for 60 taxis at any one time, and 35 at the taxi holding area in Old Stanhope Road. Together with the train and taxi service, the interchange serves in the vicinity of some 30 000 commuters daily.

The new state of the art bus terminus, which became fully operational in July, boasts first class amenities, providing properly signposted, sheltered and safe facilities for commuters. There are also well-designed, demarcated and serviced sites for informal traders next to the interchange, in addition to open urban space which will serve as a public square for people



to relax and enjoy the environment.

"The design and structure of the terminus", says Andrew Bulman, Project Manager and Arcus Gibb's design engineer on the project, "is very different from anything else yet seen in Cape Town. This is largely due to the involvement of a large multidisciplinary team including architects, urban designers and engineers. Historically, transport facilities were generally designed for vehicles only, which often resulted in cold unfriendly places. With a team representing almost ten different professions, a conscious decision was taken to create a people-friendly place that would provide a pleasant user experience. We visited and researched several other transport facilities gaining insights into past mistakes and how to capitalise on the limited space that was available to us." According to Bulman, the terminus has been "future-proofed" in terms of its design to be able to accommodate any vehicle type within the next 30 years. GABS currently operate 12m long buses accommodating 50 passengers and may in the near future be using articulated "bendy" buses that can accommodate 100 passengers. "The facility has to grow into itself", says Bulman, "so we aimed for overkill, rather than to fall short of future public transport requirements."

City of Cape Town manages the facility with an on-site cleansing and security team and has an operational management plan in place to maximise commuter benefit. The completion of the new terminus has certainly gone a long way to enhancing the reputation of public transport in Claremont.

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From the Executive Manager's desk



Greetings to all our readers!

I write this after recovering from the dreaded flu virus and bronchitis that seems to be doing the rounds during what I am sure we all hope was the last throw of winter's recent heavy rain and high winds. This has been quite a winter for us all, hasn't it?

The new bus and taxi facilities

Prior to the publication of the previous issue of The Clarion I wrote about the frustrations of waiting for the long anticipated Claremont Bus Terminus which had just opened. As you will have read in our lead story on the previous page, together with the Taxi Terminus, both these new facilities are now operating in full swing. All of us in Claremont may indeed be very proud of both of these state of the art termini which, as we think back, are a very great improvement and a boon to our commuting community.

The Claremont Boulevard

As reported in previous issues, Phase 1 of these roadworks running past the station, between the Stanhope Bridge and Hawthorne Road at Stadium on Main, is now completed. Yes, indeed you can now drive on the Boulevard! Furthermore, the road name signs are up, which informs us all that this new road has certainly received its official name, **Claremont Boulevard**. (See adjacent photograph)

The construction of Phase 2, from Hawthorne Road through to the Main Road at the Newlands swimming bath intersection is proceeding as rapidly as possible in spite of the recent heavy rains. The accompanying photographs of the work in progress on the parking area of the Southern Sun Hotel and adjacent to Mill Street will be of interest. (See photographs of the Boulevard roadworks and construction in progress on page 3)

Weather permitting, we are anticipating that this construction work will be completed around the end of October or early in November.

MontClare Place

Work is also proceeding very rapidly to complete this important and massive new building on the corner of Main and Campground Roads. Already major tenants have moved in with the new Virgin Active gym expected to take occupation very soon. It is anticipated that this landmark building in Claremont will officially be opened in November.

The new Pick 'n Pay's exciting opening!

As I write, delivery trucks are queuing up at the bottom of Draper Street delivering into Pick 'n Pay's new store which opened in MontClare Place on Wednesday, 17th September. What an exciting event this undoubtedly was for Claremont!

Anthony Davies, Executive Manager

Keep us posted

Share your views or let us know of any new or important developments that we should be highlighting in the Claremont Clarion.

Email claremontcentral@iafrica.com or call 082 2241 222.

Public transport gets a welcome boost



Claremont's brand new bus terminus in Newry Street is focussed on commuter needs, providing excellent amenities to its users. Although Newry Street will remain a public road, vehicular traffic will be discouraged by means of raised pavements and other similar measures.



A view looking down over the new terminus shows the spacious bus loading bays and slatted bus shelters, designed with security and shelter from the elements a priority. Clear, well-placed signage aids commuters in locating their departure point.

Claremont Boulevard officially named



Phase 2 of Claremont Boulevard on track



Phase 2 construction of the Claremont Boulevard in progress at the intersection of Mill and Thicket Streets near Newlands Station, despite challenging weather conditions.



Construction of Phase 2 of the Claremont Boulevard underway on the grounds of the former parking area of the Southern Sun Newlands Hotel at the intersection of Letterstedt Road and the Main Road.

A treat for tea-lovers

The first of its kind in Cape Town, the Tea Emporium has opened in Cavendish. Owner, Hajira Khalfe, was inspired to offer something to counter the fast-paced coffee culture after visiting a teahouse in South Beach in Brisbane. She was astounded by the array of tea types and flavours available. "The whole idea is to introduce teas that are not available in South Africa and a relaxing environment where they can be enjoyed at leisure," says Hajira. "The style and décor of the shop have been designed with this in mind," she adds.

Shoppers can purchase high grade loose-leaf teas including natural and flavoured black and green teas, oolongs, white teas, unusual flavoured rooibos tea, fruit teas and even a special children's blend fruit tea. Also on offer are cakes, tea-flavoured biscuits, teaware, "tea-pharnalia", as well as tea tastings, a Tea of the Month Club and the School of Teas. Visit Cape Town Tea Emporium on Lower Ground Floor, Cavendish Tel. 021 674 6066

The Claremont Central Directory 2009

Now in its third edition, The Claremont Central Directory, will again be published for distribution in early February 2009 to 15 000 households within a 5km radius of Claremont.

A well-designed, 44-page, full colour, A5 printed booklet, The Claremont Central Directory is an easy-to-use reference to business, shopping and leisure activities in the Claremont CBD. Intended as a hold-onto publication, this annual guide echoes the directory section of the website. Both promotional tools are geared to raising the profile of the Claremont commercial district and providing users of and visitors to the area with an expansive guide to what is available in this prime commercial hub.

Should you wish to advertise or list your business in the 2009 edition, contact The Executive Connection on Tel 021 671 4297 / 082 2241 222 or email claremontcentral@iafrica.com for more information.

CIDC Chairman rides for charity



On the 22nd August 2008, CIDC Chairman, Chris Drummond, right, pictured here with Lance Armstrong - former American professional road racing cyclist who won the Tour de France a record-breaking seven consecutive years - and 35 other willing participants from around the world, cycled a challenging 140 kilometers in the hilly terrain of the Canadian Rockies to raise funds for Cancer Research. The event raised 750 000 US dollars for the cause.



Going Green the Vineyard Hotel way

The Vineyard Hotel and Spa has embarked on an environmental programme involving several disciplines. The programme initially began with the establishment of an Environmental Committee manned by staff members from the hotel and chaired by Chris van Zyl, the hotel's horticulturist and environmental manager.



The company, Saveall, is employed by the Vineyard Hotel and Spa to sort all hotel refuse and recycle all reusable items such as paper, cardboard, glass, plastic and tins. Old cooking oil is also recycled by being returned for the manufacture of bio-diesel.

In a joint effort, all departments at the hotel signed an environmental policy to show their commitment towards preserving the environment. Chris is particularly pleased about their waste recycling results. "For the first time ever", he says, "we have managed to reduce the volume of waste going to landfill to as little 50 wheelie bins for the month of

July 2008, compared with last year's average of 144 bins to landfill per month."

According to Chris, every effort is being made by the hotel to conserve water and many water saving practices have already been implemented. These include irrigating at night with borehole water, installation of drip irrigation, aerated taps and water saving shower heads. The hotel's energy saving campaign focuses on the use of energy saving light bulbs where possible and the installation of hot water pipes and the use of heat pumps, which are much more efficient to supply the hotel's hot water requirements.

"Within the hotel grounds", Chris added, "we are keen to keep the garden as indigenous as possible and in the last four years the garden team has been actively working towards this goal. All new planting is indigenous and only organic compost and fertilizer are used. We also ensure that no harmful chemicals are used in the garden."



In the hotel's first environmental community programme, called Adopt a Plot, in the Silvermine section of the Table Mountain National Park, they adopted an 8.5 hectare plot for alien clearing.

Twelve of the hotel staff attended a training session in the Park, where they encountered the splendour of the fynbos and were encouraged to spend one Sunday a month cutting down alien vegetation to help protect the fragile fynbos ecosystem. "At our alien clearing project outing in July," says Chris, "we had the best ever attendance and it was great to see how the natural vegetation is starting to reclaim the previously alien infested areas".

Calling all adventurers

A newcomer to Claremont, Seven Summits Mountain Mail Order started up 12 years ago and has since become the largest supplier of rock climbing, backpacking, mountaineering and expeditionary equipment in South Africa. All of the staff are active rock climbers and mountaineers with a combined experience of over 30 years, from the world's highest mountain ranges to local crags. They have consulted and kitted expeditions from Everest and Antarctica to the deserts of Africa.

"We are continuously kitting out folks for trips to Kilimanjaro, Himalayan treks and numerous local adventures, and regularly supply gear for ascents on more serious climbs on big peaks around the globe, as well as expeditions to remote locations such as Gough Island and the Antarctic. For those seeking inspiration, we have a great mountain of literature and DVD's instore - the authors and creators of some of these often pop in for visits or to get their mitts on the latest vertical toys. Our passion lies in wild places and we strive to help our customers enjoy the mountain experience as thoroughly as we do." The extensive product range includes camping, hiking and climbing gear, industrial and rope accessories, as well as clothing. They also stock a wide selection of books and DVD's for the armchair enthusiast.

Seven Summits Mountain Mail Order, 29 Cavendish Street, Claremont
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Working in partnership



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