



Newsletter

Men on the Side of the Road (WO348)

November 2014

Newsflash

The MSR landline and fax have been out of order since the 3rd October 2014, and we are still none the wiser as to when we will be reconnected.

Our interim fax number is 0886502754 , and calls are being diverted to the MSR mobile number. (081 6322301).

To contact us directly:

Janet: 081 3217752 or office@mnr.org.na

Hilya: 081 2773567 or mensideofroad@gmail.com

Tomas: 081 6322301 or fieldworker.mnr@gmail.com

Please note that the MSR office will close on 9th December 2014 and re-open 12th January 2015

Exciting new course starting in 2015

MSR is always on the look out for innovative opportunities that will enable our members to improve their livelihoods. Through a chance encounter at the Windhoek Show, we have teamed up with Norbert Neumann, an experienced thatcher who will share his skills with some of our members, in a pilot programme scheduled for January 2015.

Thatching is a skill that many of our members have learned at a basic level, growing up in villages in the north, and is in demand all over the country. Norbert will work with the group to enhance and develop their skills so that they are able to offer them on a more commercial footing. At the moment it is not possible to learn thatching in a formal environment in Namibia, so we expect this will greatly enhance the participants ability to become self sustainable.



More inside!



Members discussion

At the community meeting in October, members examined the good and bad things about their community, in an effort to identify a project they could implement to change the environment for the better. The aim is to develop a project for the Worcester Polytechnic University research group that visit in March; that has member buy-in, so that more MSR members gain exposure to the students during their visit.

1. Good Things Needed in the community.

Solar panels (a means to generate electricity in unserviced areas)	
CCTV	Traffic Calming on busy roads
Rubbish sites	Toilet Facilities
Play place sfor children	Wireless internet

2. Bad Things happening in the community

Fire risk to shacks and occupiers– Caused by Candles	
Too many bars/ Shebeens	GBV
Suicides	Theft
Fighting	Reckless Driving(Bad Driving)

A lively discussion was held over two days, examining many of the issues faced by people living in the informal settlements. Once the issues had been identified, the group were led through a process of identifying the 'things they could change' against 'things they have no control over'. The outcome has been to offer WPI a proposal:

*'Lights, Candles, Action:
Reducing the fire risk in informal sector housing in Namibia'*

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Two members received their certificates from Almut Hoffmann, who visited the MSR office recently. Almut worked as an intern at MSR in 2010, and visits MSR whenever she is in Namibia.

MSR polo shirts still available

Still searching for unusual Christmas gifts?
An MSR polo shirt is only available from MSR,
and will make a gift with a difference.

Price:

S,M,L: N\$200.00

XL, 2XL: N\$210.00

Call Janet on 081 3217752 to arrange collection.

Please support our work by ordering one of our polo shirts.



cont.

Our impact

- From part time gardener, to internationally qualified IT technician.
- From unemployed to taxi owner/operator.
- From unskilled to qualified welder and small business owner.

These are just some of our success stories in 2014. Whilst we gather numbers, our true impact is on the changes in the lives of the people with whom we work.

The MSR office will close on Tuesday 9th December, 2014 and re-open on Monday 12th January 2015.

We take this opportunity to wish all of our supporters a safe and peaceful festive season; an opportunity to recharge your batteries and to return invigorated to face the joys and challenges that 2015 will surely bring.

Job seekers corner

The following members are looking for work opportunities:

Jermia litumbu is an experienced painter, tiler and also does interlocks.

Nduvundi Josef is a carpenter.

Onesmus Amukwaya has a Code CE drivers licence.

Simson Shatiwa has completed the welding course at The Kayec Trust.

Please contact the office on 081 6322301 or email mensideofroad@gmail.com if you are looking for some-one with these skills, or would like further details about them.

Windhoek show

MSR was fortunate to be invited to participate in the Windhoek Show, our stand was situated in the Bank Windhoek CSI hall. Thank you Bank Windhoek for this opportunity

Thank you to Michelle, Janine and Almut for helping out at the stand, we could not have done it without you.

Thank you to everyone that dropped by to talk to us, and to enquire about the work that we do.



Our corporate members, donors and partners

MSR can only undertake their work with support from corporate Namibia, other organizations and philanthropic individuals. We are grateful for the support we receive:

Capricorn Investment Holdings Ltd	Paratus Telecom	IJG Securities (Pty) Ltd
Bank Windhoek	Avril Payment Solutions	Business Financial Solutions
Price Waterhouse Coopers	XL The Travel Professionals	The KAYEC Trust
Santam Namibia	Janton Consulting cc	Namib Mills
ABSA Barclays	EIF	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Namibia Breweries Ltd	PKF Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers	Blackburn University, UK
NG Kerk Eros	The Namibian Literacy Trust	Social Security Commission Development Fund
Schoemans Office Systems	Ministry of Health & Social Services	The Virtual Consulting Group
Eden Imports and Export cc	Old Mutual	CABINcc
Imago Dei Poverty & Welfare Relief	The Society of Friends	NABCOA
Chamber of Mines		The Nampower Foundation
SANLAM Namibia		

Thank you for your support:

**Association not for Gain (Reg 21/2007/025)
Welfare Organisation (WO348)**

Bank account details:

MSR (Namibia)

Bank Windhoek: Main Branch

Account: 8001384357

Branch Code: 481 972

If you want your donation to be used for training, please use this account:

MSR training account

Bank Windhoek: Main Branch

Account: 8002323840

Branch Code: 481 972



Always ask to see the MSR membership card

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