



Oranjemund Community Newsletter

This month we focus on the Community and the Environment. We have some new contributors, and we are reaching more parts of our community. Publishing monthly, we need your input: What do you want to see? How can you be part of this? Contact info is on the top of the page.



THE ORANGE RIVER MOUTH AND SEA

FEATURE

- Ursula Witbooi

As human beings we have the capacity to build, protect, and conserve - but at the same time destroy our natural world and all it has to offer. Even amidst this horrific worldwide pandemic, we are fortunate here in Oranjemund to experience our town and its surroundings in a way that can only be described as privileged. In an honest, authentic conversation with nature, she will certainly have the following to say. "I have seen how you yearn to break away from all your troubles and seek my quiet and calm river waters offering a perfect setting to take your photographs, listen to the wetland birds conducting their soft conversations while you cast your line into the water. At the beach you wiggle your toes into the sand and take a deep breath filling your lungs with my fresh air. I can sense how your mind drifts off and you become caught up in your own thoughts. Some of you are hopeful to catch a big fish that can end up on your plate.

And yet, I have also seen how you do not stop when you have reached your quota of fish for the day. You want more without considering others or leaving some for tomorrow. You refuse to throw the juvenile fish back and you continue to cast nets illegally into the river. Your desire and need for more never ends. Did you not notice that you have the office of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources in town and by paying a small fee you get a permit that guides you on sizes and number of fish that can be caught? You continue to litter my waters with your cigarette butts, bottles and plastics. This sucks the air out of me in both ocean and river. Can you not see how I struggle to breathe when sea animals get caught up in your litter traps, develop clogged stomachs and eventually die? The waste associated with plastics and fishing gear eventually break down into microplastics - smaller pieces that become weathered by sunlight and waves. These can remain in the water forever and lead to fish and aquatic animals developing health problems and dying! Your plastics and pieces of glass bottles hurt our wild animals roaming the area. I have seen how you take it upon yourselves to dig a trench to open up my mouth when I have intended for it to be closed. *(continues on page 2)*

(continued from page 1) Did you not know that I was designed to close my mouth from time to time? The water is necessary to build up so that it can flow over the marshland on the South African side, ridding it of debris and sediment, cleansing it and providing it with nesting grounds for wetland birds. I need this rejuvenation to keep me healthy and strong. By closing my mouth I push back the water into the underground water resources necessary for you to sustain your water consumption through the aquifer upstream at the Oppenheimer Bridge. Also be gentle when you use your boats at my mouth area. The strong ripples erode my river banks making them weaker and more susceptible to caving in. The fish and birds nesting on the islands become bewildered by the loud boat engines. Some of you even go so far as to claim my vegetated islands as your own, putting up your shacks and letting your dogs roam free in a sensitive area. Dear human being, do you not realise that destroying me ultimately means destroying yourself? I will remain hopeful that you will view me as your beneficial partner. If treated right, I will ensure both your and my survival”.



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THE ORANJEMUND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Published monthly by volunteers in Oranjemund, Namibia. It is free, non-profit, supported by donations, designed for print, and dedicated to helping the people of Oranjemund create a new community as we transition from being a mining town to having a diverse economy and thriving tourism trade.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

TAKE PRECAUTION

- Mumbi Kasumba

COVID-19 has plagued the earth for almost half a year. As nations battle with returning to normalcy safely, it's extremely important that we recognize the threat still exists. Nations report new cases even after seemingly overcoming this pandemic. New Zealand recently had its first cases after 24 days without new cases. Beijing recently had an outbreak after 50 virus-free days.

As of 27 July, Namibia has 1,843 COVID-19 cases and 8 reported deaths. As bleak as this news may sound, Oranjemund can take comfort in the space our town offers. Walking down the street and not bumping into 100s of people at a time is an advantage we should not take for granted. We are still able to enjoy fresh air and the outdoors while maintaining social distancing.

Our local shops have done a remarkable job at being proactive in protecting our community. No one is allowed to enter shopping facilities without wearing a mask, sanitizing their hands, and signing in at the entrances. These are just a few reasons we can feel blessed to live here. Although it has been a while since we've seen each other's beautiful smiles, we know that wearing a mask, sanitizing our hands, and maintaining social distancing is an act of kindness towards one another.

Along with the known protective measures, it's important that people remember not to share masks, not to wear loose fitting or damaged masks, and wash masks at least once a day. Also remember to avoid touching masks, and always cover both your nose and mouth.

ORANJEMUND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SIGN UP TODAY

WHEN: 31st July 2020
WHERE: OMD 2030 (Opposite Spar)

**COME TO THE OMD 2030 NIGHT MARKET AND FIND OUT
ABOUT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**

PROFILE

MIKE ALEXANDER



“Walking down any street is a flood of memories.” said Mike Alexander, part owner of SPAR and an active community supporter. “My parents moved to Oranjemund for my health when I was two, almost 50 years ago. Seeing the Eastgate Mall reminds me of watching it being built when I was at home sick. It still reminds me of being under a steam tent with asthma for much of the ‘70s. (Laugh) I also remember people trying to find me while I was sleeping on somebody’s roof.

“Things were simpler then. Before TV came to Oranjemund, we would watch video tapes with the single workers. The bus drivers would stop for a kid running after a bus. But the kids have become unruly, and that kind of thing had to stop. A helicopter from Namdeb once herded about 14 of us kids back into town from where we were playing near the sand quarry. We were terrified!” (Sounding sad) “It was a big desert; they could have let us play in part of it.

“I value the people of Oranjemund – they care about each other. But the sense of community is diminishing. We have to work with each other and keep that caring alive.

“Michele and I are here because we have business here and opportunities for our children. CDM was extremely good to its employees, and we now try to do the same for our children. Opportunities are still here, and that’s a good thing. The mine used to do everything for us. They had to, it was so remote and we couldn’t leave the area. Now we have to do things for ourselves. The mine doesn’t have the same responsibility they used to have.

“All of Africa is going to change. With internet from satellites, countries will no longer be able to switch off the internet. That will make change possible. Namibia has the best Press Freedom in Africa. That will also make a difference.

“When I die, I don’t want to look back and think I haven’t left anything of value. I remember as a kid in school a teacher who, every week, said ‘The world doesn’t owe you a living. What you decide to do here will determine your life.’ We blew him off – I think we should have listened to what the old people were telling us. We never listened, because we thought we knew better.”

(The entire interview is on “www.ormdnews.com”, menu item “Additional Materials”)

TOWN TRANSFORMATION

OTC, OMD 2030 and OMDIs

The three primary stakeholder organizations (OTC, OMD 2030, and OMDIs), alone, cannot do the job of transforming Oranjemund. Their mandates were explained in Edition 2, and in some of the articles this month. Basically, OTC is government and services, OMD 2030 is social change and tourism, OMDIs is economic diversification and growth. The citizens must be involved in this process for all three areas and give their inputs and drive to the process so the town will become what the citizens want it to become.

This month, each of the stakeholders has written about what they feel are the important issues that we should all concentrate on from their own perspectives. We welcome your inputs (Address "Letters to the Editor" addressed to editor.ormdnews@gmail.com, or send a WhatsApp to us at 081-626-2246 with your comments, or with questions for the stakeholders.

Here at OCN, we are pledged to use this newsletter to aid in communications between the citizens and the organizational stakeholders. We cannot do that unless you let us know what you think. If you have a question you want each of them to address, send it to us and we will request replies from the stakeholders.

- Glennadette Scholtz



DO YOU OWN A DOG WITHIN THE TOWN BOUNDARIES OF ORANJEMUND?

If yes, remember that owning a dog comes with responsibilities. Owners must take care of your pets and get them licensed. Some owners are not keeping their dogs under effective control. It's every owner's obligation to control their dogs. They must be contained to a property or under supervision when in public. It is against the law to allow your dog/s to wander unsupervised, and it poses a serious public health and safety risk. Stray dogs can create a traffic hazard, or may cause harm to other people, animals or wildlife. They can also spread diseases and parasites to other animals in the area, so ensure your pet is vaccinated and treated.

Please adhere to the following rules to maintain a safe, hygienic and harmonious environment for all residents of Oranjemund:

1. Renew/ Obtain licenses
2. Report sick or injured animals/wildlife
3. Keep your dog under control and off the streets
4. Report lost or found pets
5. Prevent your dog from being a nuisance to neighbours
6. Report a dead domestic animal
7. Report stray dogs to the Town Council immediately
8. Report a dog bite or dog attacks

Report violations to Environmental Health at 063 233500/0811555615 or health@ormdtc.com.na

The above is in accordance with Oranjemund Town Council by-law in dog control and government gazette tariff of 15 August 2018 No 6681. Any breach of these municipal rules & regulation within the jurisdiction of Oranjemund shall be guilty of an offence and liable for conviction of fine not exceeding N\$2,000.00 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding six (6) months or both fine & imprisonment.



*Climate change is a terrible problem, and it absolutely needs to be solved. It deserves to be a huge priority. - **Bill Gates***



TOWN TRANSFORMATION

OTC, OMDiS and OMD 2030

- Sue Cooper



ORANJEMUND: A TOWN FOR TOMORROW

“In the last 50 years, wildlife populations have declined by 60% and for the first time ever, the stability of nature cannot be taken for granted.” David Attenborough, 2020

As Oranjemunders, we are proud of our pristine environment, our urban oryx and the biodiversity hotspot that we call home. As humans, we rely on biodiversity (the variability of living things) for our life on earth. Biodiversity, and the services it provides, purifies our water and cleans our air. Without it, we would have no food, no medicine, and no materials to construct our houses.

We are not taking enough care of our biodiversity and the environment. Over one million plants and animals face extinction globally due to human-caused habitat loss, climate change, pollution and over-exploitation of natural resources. Humans and wildlife are coming into ever-increasing contact, which is facilitating the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

At OMD 2030, we are determined to make a positive difference to our local environment. Earlier in 2020, we launched our innovative ‘Town for Tomorrow’ project in partnership with the OTC. This ground-breaking initiative involved EcoAwards Namibia (an internationally acclaimed organisation offering sustainability education and accreditation programmes) performing an environmental sustainability audit of Oranjemund and its townlands. This is the first time they have assessed a municipal area. Once their report is published, Oranjemund will be the first town in Namibia to receive an environmental sustainability accreditation. The report will highlight our environmental management strengths and weaknesses. From there, we can take actions to ensure we conserve and enhance Oranjemund’s environmental brand. We cannot do this alone. We need the help of the whole community. Look out for OMD 2030 notices about how you can make a difference and join with us to ensure that Oranjemund remains an environmental jewel of southern Namibia.

- Ronel van der Merwe



Oranjemund has been a diamond mining town since 1936. At the height of diamond production life was extremely good to employees, who also happened to be the only residents. For decades life was good beyond what most people can dream of. In the last 30 years, the mine has steadily produced less diamonds, and increasingly outsourced services – the beginning of what was

relatively slow change. State owned enterprises and Government offices set up shop. Private owned businesses came into being, serving mostly the functions that the mine had outsourced. People other than mine employees began living in town. The town was proclaimed, a local authority was established and eventually the town did open up, triggering both fear and excitement amongst residents. Slowly but steady, vitally important sustainable changes set in. We are now at the precipice of the next 10 years of change, and it is going to be fast paced and very tricky. We have to diversify the economy of the town in order for Oranjemund to have a future beyond mining. We call it Town Transformation, and OMDiS Town Transform Agency was formed to accelerate this process. We are a Section 21 company, non-profit, and exclusively have a business-in-Oranjemund focus. In 10 years’ time, other large industries, like agriculture and tourism, should be operational in town. Private property ownership should have increased exponentially, SMEs should be less dependent on the mine and service other industries and residents profitably. It takes 15 years to transform a town, and we are fortunate that we can start this process while mining is still active. It will take residents, business community, local & National Government to make sure this happens for Oranjemund.

All organisms depend on their environments for energy and materials needed to sustain life: clean air, water, nutritious food, and safe places to live. As much as the environment can provide life, it can also cause diseases. To some people, the environment generally means nature while to others, the environment is the immediate surrounding in which we live. The environment and human lives are interlinked.

People are very much dependent on the environment to make a living. At the same time, the events that are needed to produce food, sustain and promote human life harm the environment. For example, food production causes environmental damage from pesticides, carbon emissions from food manufacturing and deforestation, and over-fishing. Health facilities also impact the environment negatively, since hospitals use a large amount of fossil fuels and produce medical waste. Therefore the environment is under constant interference by human bound activities which in the end negatively affects Human health. According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Fact files, Stroke, heart disease, unintentional injuries, cancers, and chronic respiratory infections are the top 5 causes of environmental-related deaths.

Here are two examples of the environmental factors that affect human health:

- **Overpopulation:** Leads to poverty, environmental degradation etc.
- **Pollution:** causes changes to the environment, e.g. air pollution or water pollution that can cause diseases

Today, there are many new developments in science, technology, and industry that are bound to pose benefits and risks to the environment and human health. To deal with them in a way that benefits us all, ongoing studies of the relationship between human health and the environment is essential. Democratic public discussions, such as community forums, academic conferences, and legislative debates, involving participants with diverse cultural, socioeconomic, philosophic, and scientific perspectives is also critical. Therefore to have a healthy life, we need to take care of our environment because a pleasant environment is an indication of healthy human beings and a developed nation. It is our responsibility as an individual and a community to ensure a safe environment.



SCHOOLS

!GARIBAMS SECONDARY SCHOOL

Welcome to our Oranjemund Education corner

The page is aimed to share information from the three different schools in Oranjemund, relating to useful information for scholars and educational fraternity.

BACK TO SCHOOL AFTER COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

- Madie Venter



The grade 12 and 11 learners returned to !Garibams Secondary on 3 June 2020 after a lockdown period of two and a half months. We started off with an orientation program by the principal, teachers and nurses from the state clinic. A video was also made to inform parents and learners about the precautions taken by the school to deep clean the school and measures that will be taken to keep learners and teachers safe. The aim was to sensitize them to the need for social distancing, sanitising and washing of

hands regularly, and the wearing of masks. Every morning starts with the taking of teachers and learners' temperatures, hand sanitising and the answering of a few health-related questions (screening).



Although it took a bit of time to get used to everything, teachers and learners are now hard at work to finish the syllabi for the different subjects to write a mock exam in August and final exams starting in October. The Covid-19 pandemic caught us off guard, but we came back better and stronger!



The only way forward, if we are going to improve the quality of the environment, is to get everybody involved. - Richard Rogers





This page is dedicated to sharing educational information, helpful tips, events, stories and notices concerning the children of Oranjemund. If you want to assist with this page in any way do not hesitate to contact us.

- Christy Kavetuna

WHAT YOU CAN DO AS A YOUNG NAMIBIAN TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT?

- Know your environment.
- Youth Advocacy: use the power of your collective voice to lobby and lead campaigns towards adopting environmentally-friendly practices and policies within your community.
- Plant a tree. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas.
- Never pour anything – especially waste oil or leftover lawn chemicals – into a storm drain.
- Recycle.
- Give it away, don't throw it away. Many charitable organizations accept donations of wearable clothing and gently used household items.
- Do not litter.
- Conserve energy.
- Use a bucket when you wash your parents' car, instead of the hose.
- Use both sides of the paper. Set your copier to make double-sided copies and you'll substantially reduce your paper use.
- Take a canvas bag to the grocery and re-use it each time you shop.



Youth are equal partners and torchbearers in creating and implementing the goals toward environmental sustainability.



WE CANNOT ALWAYS RELY ON OTHER PEOPLE TO CLEAN UP OUR OWN MESS



Moral codes adjust themselves to environmental conditions. - Will Durant

FORMING A COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

FILL THE NEED

- NAWA! PETS

Starting a community organization is challenging, but the rewards far outweigh the challenges. A community organization is created as a non-profit organization to fill a gap or need that is identified in the community. Often as the organization grows more needs are identified. All communities have challenges, and many of these challenges cannot be helped through traditional business practices. An NGO is independent of both the government and business sector, with a mandate to serve the public good and promote the public interest, rather than to make a profit or advance the interest of a narrow group of individuals. A business structure is very different to a non-profit, and the two are not in competition. A non-profit works in collaboration with the businesses in the area, which is of benefit to these businesses.

The non-profit first needs to be formed as a passionate group of people with a shared vision, who then establish the aims and goals of the organization. A constitution is then drafted, with a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary voted in.

Finding team members means finding the right people who are passionate about a similar cause, who are willing to volunteer their time and skills, and who have a shared vision for the organization. An organization can rarely survive without a committed and determined team. There will always be resistance to a new organization starting in any community, but the team can stay focused and achieve their goals by staying committed to the vision and mission of the organization. The rewards for the organizations volunteers are: seeing the positive impact that is created; skills development; networking; inclusion in a positive team; recognition; and the feeling of having made a difference to others' lives.

If there is a problem in the community that concerns you, and that you are passionate about, starting a community organization is one way to make a change. Many people complain on the community WhatsApp groups about certain things, and these are the things that can give birth to an NGO – for example road safety, substance use and abuse, gender-based violence, skills development for youth, or environmental issues. Awareness and education go a long way to creating the type of community that is healthy and safe for all.

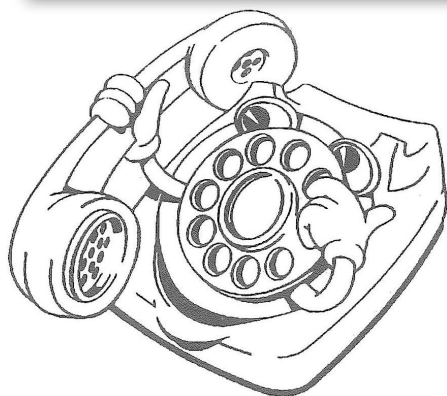
Nawa! pets was started in OMD in this way. The organization is made up of people who are passionate about animal welfare, and supporting the community in pet care. The organization is its own separate legal entity, and is run by these volunteers. The organization is intended to be community driven, and is open to as much community involvement as possible. Nawa! pets is not for profit, and will not charge for their services. However, some programs may request a joining fee to cover costs and promote responsibility, or a paid service can be facilitated through Nawa! pets to reduce fees. Fundraising is done to cover costs for specific programs that are implemented, and overall running costs.

The aim of the organization is to promote good pet care, so that the community can realize and enjoy the benefits of owning healthy pets. The rewards of this are long term community health and safety including increasing empathy, awareness, social responsibility and interpersonal relationships. It is well documented that when children grow up empathizing with and caring for animals, they are more likely to become caring adults and responsible members of society.

Nawa! pets would like to invite the community to be part of the organization. Volunteers, whether short term or long term, are always welcome. The organization is also looking for community members who share the vision, to join the core team. Businesses who would like to be part of our future programs through donations, donations in kind, or sponsorships, are welcome to make contact. Youth who are interested in a career in animal care, community work, or program development are welcome to make contact with us.

*Please make contact with Nawa! pets via email : nawapetsomd@gmail.com
Please also follow our Facebook page on [@nawapetsomd](https://www.facebook.com/nawapetsomd)*

This article is from 4 August 1989. The call in line and facts are not current.
See the original scanned page on our website: www.ormdnews.com, menu "Additional Materials"



ORANGE MOUTH

Telephone 2470 on Monday to
air your views

Another Sweet Tooth pleads for the return of freshly baked doughnuts and chocolate eclairs. So what if they're fattening, they're delicious and the Cape Town confectionary just does not compare.

Jenny Gerstner is not amused. She is in fact annoyed that Deeply Concerned tars all teenagers with the same brush. Ninety nine percent of them are normal, good kids who were no problem when she did duty at the Youth Club and are no problem now. Jenny advises Deeply Concerned not to listen to gossip and questions whether he has children of his own and why he could not put his name to the letter.

Jill Krynauw also asks why Deeply Concerned wishes to remain anonymous. Is he a parent of teenagers? She also wants to know whether Deeply Concerned spends all his time in Sporties watching for kids to misbehave - he seems not to have noticed teenagers at any other place. Jill suggests too, that if the writer is so deeply concerned he contact the parents personally.

Crummy Mommy says R W Kiesling misses the point. It is not the price of bread she objects to but the quality.

Unhappy worker calculates that the 11 men pictured in the No 1 Plant workshop, worked a total of 253,000 man-hours in the approximately 9 and a half years which it takes to clock up 3,500 shifts. A workshop which has 50 men working in it will achieve the same total manhours, ie. 253,000 in a year and ten months. In 9 and a half years more than 1.3m manhours will have been worked. Is this fair? Should safety awards not be comparable?

Orange Bull says these days he wonders how little he is going to get on pay day.

MYSTERY OF MISSING SCHOOL CLOTHES

We have stumbled onto a new/old mystery in Oranjemund - the disappearance of school clothes without trace.

All clues leading to solving this case have failed. Not even name tags machined onto clothes ensures their return to the owner or the lost property box.

An appeal is now made to all mothers of school going children. If, when going through your child's cupboard or doing the laundry you come across school clothes marked with foreign names, please be so kind as to return them to the school.

There are the "not interested" people who do not and just can't be bothered to check but, please other Oranjemunders, help us poor working moms who always have to fork out for replacement articles. Like they say, "I only work for CDM. I don't own it".

Mom

NOT ALL BIKERS OFF-ROAD MEMBERS

The chairman of the Off-Road Club replies to Sanity on Sunday who objected to motorbikes on the beach.

"The committee of the Off-Road Club is committed to the safe practicing of our sport in the areas designated. However, the Off-Road Club cannot be held responsible for the actions of non-members who from time to time ride their bikes on the beach. All organised events under the control of the Off-Road Club are advertised in the Newsletter and to date not a single event has taken place on the beach. Does Sanity expect us to patrol the beach area to allow him and his dogs exclusive use of the beach where his dogs can happily disturb birdlife and pollute the beach? A last request; if anyone has a complaint about members of the club could they please contact Fanie Smit at telephone 3574 after hours, or better still, see him personally at 66/2nd Ave."

Fanie Smit

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



IN DEFENCE OF TEENAGERS

In reply to the letter from Deeply Concerned may I point out that the definition of "terrorist" in the Oxford Dictionary is one who favours or uses terror inspiring methods of governing or of coercing government or the community. I certainly do not think that our children fit that description. It also seems that DC is very aware of everything that goes on during the school holidays. Has he got teenagers of his own? In the last paragraph he mentions "if one believes in some of the gossip going around". One should look at gossip for what it is worth - its worth nothing.

Brenda Hill

The heading was mine - Act Ed.

ANOTHER REPLY TO FRY

I am writing in support of Mr Fry's suggestion that pensioners be able to buy shares. Why not! Incidentally, the young lady apprentice Mr Fry referred to was Susan Rabie, who was Apprentice of the Year for two years, she is married to Roc Clark. By coincidence we received a long chatty letter from Susan Clarke in the same mail as the Newsletter. Susan and Rox now live in Perth, Australia. They worked at Oranjemund for a few years round about 1980 to 1984. Then at Finsch and left for Australia in January this year.

Cathy Manthe

This article from 4 August 1989 shows that even then, people had complaints, suggestions, and opinions that they wanted to express. While WhatsApp is used today, I doubt a WhatsApp message will last 31 years as these comments did!

Let the OCN know what you think!

WA/SMS 081-626-2246 (no calls), or
editor.ormdnews@gmail.com

This article from 15 August 1986 shows youth planting trees that we walk under and around today.
The original scanned page can be viewed at our website: www.ormdnews.com, "Additional Materials".



Pre-schoolers (from left): Nico Geldenhuys, Nicola Steyn, Shitongeni Kakehonga, Ingrid Butler, Jacques Oelofse and Silas Amadhila plant the Cape mahogany tree that will provide shade for coming generations of youngsters.

ARBOR DAY IN ORANJEMUND



One for posterity. A proud Brownie pack is all smiles for Newsletter photographer, Gary Sutter.



A combined effort by the Voortrekkers, Cubs and Guides.



The Voortrekkers dig a hole.....



.....the Cubs plant a tree.....



.....and the Guides admire their handiwork.

RETURNEE

VIEW OF ORANJEMUND

- Bertie Horak

"You will be disappointed", "things won't be the same" and "rather remember things how they were back then". These were the most common replies I heard when I told people I would LOVE to move back to Oranjemund. Permanently.

Oh, they were SO WRONG (but I knew it anyway). This is the town I've been born into, and which moulded me as a person during my first 13 years of life. OPS educated me, we kids were safe, the community had a sense of "we are in this together", and we had our pet gemsbokke and jackals. So, what actually changed? Yes, there's no more huge Cypress trees around the pool supplying us with real Christmas trees, the bicycle rails where the cool kids had their snacks during breaks are gone, the cinema is no more, there's no more yacht regattas on a full pink pan, and no more dense "forest" of trees surrounding the whole town to keep us sheltered from the dust storms.

Those are things that make one a bit sad, but only because they were GOOD memories, the perfect playground and introduction to "life" for me as a youngster. Everybody has memories of days gone by, and NOBODY can go back to relive their childhood experiences, expecting everything to be the same as it was 50 years ago. What we can do though, is cherish those good memories, and enjoy what we DO have...

We still have our special town. We still have our diverse community with enormous potential in so many ways. We still have our favourite wildlife pets and we are still "in this together".

If we grow as a community and respect each other, absolutely no town has a crow feather's chance to beat us at being the best place on earth. We are lucky. Very lucky. Believe me, I lived in the city, I lived in the mountains and I lived in a lush green valley. There is NO place like home. Oranjemund is home.

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WE THANK YOU

THIS MONTH, WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO:

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Profile: Mike Alexander

Town Transformation: Glennadette Sholtz (OTC), Ronel van der Merwe (OMDis), Sue Cooper (OMD 2030)

Forming a Community Organisation: Nawa! Pets

Community Spotlight/Citizen Comments:

anonymous citizens in "on the street" interviews

WhatsApp/SMS: 081-626-2246 Email: editor.ormdnews@gmail.com

NEWCOMERS

VIEW OF ORANJEMUND

- Christy Kavetuna

I've been in Oranjemund for about a year now, having visited the town twice before. When I moved here, I received the warmest welcome I have ever received. I came with only one blanket, but people helped me feel comfortable and could give me what I needed. I have been to many other small towns but the people here are quite reserved and most make it look like an island on its own.

Being a Proud Namibian, I never feel like an outsider anywhere in Namibia. I felt that this is home like any other and I do not need to be accepted by anyone to feel like an Oranjemunder. Like any other small town, it is an "everyone really does know everyone town".

Most were very happy to see a new person in town. The thing that makes me feel like this is not just like any other town of Namibia, especially in terms of culture or how things are done, is that people here operate in very tight circles. Another odd but worrisome thing is that some people link you to your salary, "are you an A,B, C, D band"?, and that's how you are categorized by some.



Oranjemund is a very remote beautiful place. Life is easy to keep up with, cheaper, traffic isn't bad, and there are no swarms of people. When you make the choice to relocate here, enjoy and embrace every moment. Try to make an impact and feel at home.

I would like to see a less segmented community, challenging questionable activities and beliefs. I want to sense a singular community with stronger relationships and collective action, a community that believes in change and is open to learning from others. People need to accept that this no longer a closed Namdeb town, but OUR town, and adjust to life in the real world like any other small town. Oranjemunders, like everyone else, should expect to do most of the work ourselves. No outside consultant, no matter how talented, will know your community better than you. Most importantly nothing should be done for us WITHOUT us as a community being actively involved. This town transformation cannot be a success without the community's involvement in effective decision making. I want to see a strong trustable relationship between the stakeholders and the community at large, and building trust among community members is essential for this to succeed.

VOLUNTEERISM

THE SELFLESS ACT

- Christy Kavetuna

With busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering can be enormous. Volunteering offers vital help to people in need, worthwhile causes, and the community, but the benefits can be even greater for you, the volunteer. The right match can help you to find friends, connect with the community, learn new skills, and even advance your career.

But, what is a volunteer? A volunteer is a person who offers to give without being asked or obliged. A person who has chosen to work and help others. Giving to others can also help protect your mental and physical health. It can reduce stress, combat depression, keep you mentally stimulated, and provide a sense of purpose. While it's true that the more you volunteer, the more benefits you'll experience, volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy day. Giving in even simple ways can help those in need and improve your health and happiness.

There are many benefits to volunteering, here are 4 ways to feel healthier and happier

- Volunteering connects you to others
- Volunteering is good for your mind and body
- Volunteering can advance your career
- Volunteering brings fun and fulfillment to your life



CIRCLES

LETS CREATE CIRCLES

-Ivan Pheko



Artisanal: (dictionary) of items produced in limited quantities by an artisan through the use of traditional methods e.g., Artisanally make bread, cheese, wine, sew, knit,..... Simply put, the cottage industry refers to a period of time in which goods for sale were produced on a very small scale, usually in a home. ... The cottage industry is the forerunner of factories. With the current world situation maybe we should think of business from a different perspective. Knowledge that sits in your head only, is limited knowledge. If you do not share what you know, then you are doomed to forever be the only one to do what you know. Knowledge

sharing is an activity through which knowledge and expertise are exchanged among people.....thus the Circles. Sharing knowledge is akin to many hands... "MAKE LIGHT WORK".

Circles, the place where, traditionally, knowledge is shared and decisions are made; oshoto, indaba, and round table discussion.

Proposed Circles:

- Sewing • Knitting • Artisanal angling • Gardening (existing)
- Woodcraft • Health/Wellness • Cooking

We wish to invite you to the Night market Friday, 31st July to learn more about the Circles and how we can benefit from it. Each one, teach one.

*"There are those who know not, and know that they know not; they are students, teach them.
There are those who know, and know that they know, they are teachers, follow them"*

CITIZEN COMMENTS

HAVE YOUR SAY

GENERAL

Many people in town do not have the town's interest at heart, many are here for employment purposes but invest in other towns, as a result there is no business growth and competition.

Anonymous

Concerns by community member are not taken seriously and those that are taken in consideration are from people with a high income and standard of living.

Anonymous

Many town members are being blocked from starting initiatives and I believe there is a bias towards the poor and marginalized communities. Priority is often given to Namdeb employees first.

Anonymous

Those who are new in town and live on the outskirts are excluded from development unless you work for Namdeb.

Anonymous

People working for Namdeb feel like they cannot engage with others to start initiatives. Eg fighting Covid 19 as a community.

Anonymous

We need attract more tourists to the town.

Anonymous

The town is beautiful but the renting facilities are too small, expensive and densely populated. One cannot have a conversation in your room without others hearing

Anonymous

In general, the town is clean and people are friendly, peaceful and always willing to share

Anonymous

BREAKING AND ENTERING

There have been many houses being broken into and I have not seen anything done about it.

Anonymous

COVID-19

Who is responsible for supplying the government clinic, they always seem understaffed and lacking equipment. Even during these trying times they don't even have information to sensitize people on precautionary measures.

Anonymous

If the town is taking Corona virus seriously, why is our local authority not setting up bins for hazardous materials like masks.

Andreas Makai

TOWN TRANSFORMATION

We need to be involved in the town transformation process so more jobs can be created

Anonymous

There are uneducated people in our community and as a result the information that is presented to community members is not easily interpreted. We need better ways to communicate to people if organizations responsible for steering our town require Oranjemund citizens to comply.

Anonymous

OTC

Oranjemund Town Council needs to build more affordable housing as the renting accommodations are neglected, dilapidated and don't offer privacy.

Anonymous

INFRASTRUCTURE

We need better infrastructure as there are certain areas in town that still do not have roads.

Anonymous

There is a lack of access and unfair distribution of resources in Oranjemund, e.g. Water

Anonymous



NOTICES

CHURCH NOTICE

All churches are welcome to submit their contact details and service times. Also put notices on the OCN Calendar at www.ormdnews.com.

PHILADELPHIA CHURCH ORANJEMUND, 8th STREET (behind Post office)
Sunday morning service 09h15, Prayers: Wednesday evenings 19h00
Office Hrs: Tue & Fri 08h00–13h00, Thu 08h00–17h00

THE OCN WEBSITE

Please tell friends and family about our website. All past papers are available, there.

- **Calendar:** Post your own, or your organization's, events.
- **Languages** – Translate or send in your home language. We can post it.
- **Additional Materials:** Anything referred to in, or too long for, the newsletter.
- **Subscribe:** To get on our email list.



Go to <http://www.ormdnews.com> and select the **menu** item at the top of the page on the right side.

THE OCN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Post an event on the COMMUNITY CALENDAR on our website. It is available to anyone, anywhere, with internet access.

Go to www.ormdnews.com and **click "OCN Calendar"** on the upper right menu.

DONORS

OUR VALUED DONORS



We want to speak to you, our loyal customers, about wearing your mask properly. Wearing a mask is not just the law (not wearing one is a N\$2000.00 fine), but also safeguards the people who risk their lives every day to serve you and minimizes the risk of you contracting the virus. It is useless if worn below your nose or it only warms your chin! A week ago, 2 infected persons entered town. The threat is real. Your actions will determine the risk for everyone. If masks are not worn properly, we WILL get infected and we will cause the illness and possible death of our loved ones and neighbors. These are the facts. Or own negligence must not endanger others. If your mask makes you uncomfortable, get a different one or spend as little time as possible outside of your house.

Remember: The danger and devastation of the virus will increase in the weeks and months to come. Wear your mask properly and stay safe.

The OCN reserves the right to edit any article, and to choose which articles appear in the newsletter.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Fire/Ambulance	063 235 555	Water off	063 239 384
Hospital Hotline	063 238 111	Electricity Off	063 235 555
Namdeb Security	063 236 000	Poison Info	(011) 642 2417
Police land	063 232 228	Town Council (OTC)	063 233 500
Golden Pharmacy	063 233 443	OMD 2030	063 234 323