

## DREAM 7: LETTERS, QUESTIONS AND REPORTS BACK!

**Hallo , all you wonderful dreamers!!!!**

**Thank you for being such passionate South Africans, like Theuns and myself, and for not wanting to leave this country but instead wanting to make this a better place ....!**

**It's people like you who give the rest of the country hope; I believe we are busy making history. It's certainly not easy but it gives one so much purpose in life.**

**Nothing that's worth doing is easy.**

**Here is my email address, contact me any time if you feel discouraged.**

**Listen to Tjailatyd - we're looking for stories about the Dream in your area.**

**With love**

**Amore**

Here are copies of further emails we have received from various Dream towns during the last week. Amongst others, there was an email from a Dreamer who feels overawed by the magnitude of the task ahead and also somewhat discouraged by the apathy of her community.

".....and Ernst (Jeffreys Bay) is making me even more depressed with all his cheerfulness!! At the moment it is me and two friends who are still dreaming and wanting things to happen. No enthusiasm from anyone – all too busy.....

What can I reply?

Well, last week I sent out a newsletter to the Bonnievale dreamers informing them that we would be upgrading the two entrances to the town. I was initially very excited about this and, after last year, expected to get considerable support. I sent out the e-mails but in the end I only had the Municipality to help me prepare the ground. This time it was the community who didn't arrive!



Entrance to the Sports grounds which were upgraded last week. (18.07.12)

I think it is very important to learn something from each disappointment and I got to thinking about the primary function of a Dreamer in a particular town. One must simply not want to do everything oneself.

And that's when I realized our main purpose is to get our towns functioning again – to get community involvement to halt the deterioration; to clean up our environment; to get the youth involved (this will require education) and to get the parents involved via their children; to create a climate in which the business community will invest in the community.....and, very importantly, to bring our communities together by working together towards a common goal.

### **And what benefits will there be if a Dreamer and his/her town begin to reach their goals?**

- **A cleaner community** – not a cleaner town, because in a clean town someone else is doing the cleaning and that doesn't mean that there will be less littering.
- **A safer town** – not because it has a better police force but because the community keeps its eyes and ears open for anything which would impact negatively on their town
- **Better school results** – not because they are following a new curriculum but because of their pride in their school and because the parents are involved in uplifting the school and taking pride in what the school is offering their children
- **More visitors to your town** – not because of the festivals you arrange and the thousands of rands spent of promoting your town, but because you have a lovely town which attracts visitors who want to witness what can be done
- **Investment** – not from the State or foreign donors, but from the local people and businesses who have begun to believe in themselves again.
- **Provision of work** – a community which is not active doesn't need energy. But add life to such a community and it becomes energized to participate in the growth without having to receive promises.
- **Healthier communities** – not because a hospital or clinic is being built but because people become more aware of their personal hygiene and because litter, a breeding ground for many ills, is not lying around every street corner.
- **Tolerance of the different cultures** – this happens spontaneously without a master plan of one or other political party but because the people are no longer just voters but are fellow citizens of the same town
- **A more functional and involved municipality** – it is not necessary to allocate funds to this effort, because participation does not cost money.

I truly hope that you can see the golden thread running through all the above statements. What can that be?: The Dream does not approach the problem by looking for someone to blame, nor by going elsewhere to find someone to solve the problem, but it focuses on the energy of the townspeople. And we all know if *someone doesn't make things happen* which are obvious to the people of the town and which can cause a shift in their thinking, then nothing will happen.

So you must be the one to make *something* happen, even though it feels like a long, steep road ahead. Those who drive past the improved areas on a daily basis will not be

able to close their eyes, however hard they might try – they MUST and WILL see what you've done!

That small improvement for which your small group of Dreamers was responsible, will touch the conscience of your community – through awareness, shame, involvement, pride, self-examination, planning, entrepreneurship, an integrated community, hope – and if the seeds are planted, the path ahead becomes easier and the results will speak for themselves. Ask yourself the question: What made YOU shift your thinking? Amore Bekker who spoke on RSG and told of everything that's happened? The success story of Bonnievale and other towns?

One thing is certain: Something had an impact on your thinking and it did influence your decision to make a difference. Nobody is born without hope for the future – but the experiences of life may cause one to lose hope. Our primary goal must be to grow a **spirit of renewal** in your community.

You are not going to find that everyone will be knocking at your door to offer their help. You must realize that not everyone will have the same passion or time to do something for their town. But be assured your example will persuade others to find the compassion to be part of this program to build better towns. That spot that you and your fellow dreamers have transformed will be a beacon of what it can be like when people believe in themselves and the future again. And if you persevere and set the example for a while, the community will gradually be drawn to your projects. We all inherently need to belong to a group. What better group could there possibly be than to belong to a group of Dreamers?!

Just one day after we had worked in an area in Bonnievale, the Municipality arrived and planted some trees. Further, the Municipal Library has been painted; the Municipality has begun to put gravel on the sidewalk next to the main road (something for which we've been asking for years but for which there was never any money); a donor has given us 800 small aloes to plant..... And most importantly: the community's negativity regarding the day-to-day management of the town has begun to shrink – because hope has been restored that there may well be a future for them. It is absolutely true that your actions are of inestimable value and cannot easily be measured.

That's why we are leading from ground level and not working from the top down.

That's why you take the photos and don't wait to smile for the camera

That's why you haven't asked "What's in it for me?"

That's why, after hours of hard work, you can still dream

That's why you are ± 450 people out of 45 million

That's why it is happening .....

And that is the reason your community will begin to dream with you, because you are setting the example that it is worthwhile to strive for a better future.

That is why already we are where we are today, against all odds and all the circumstances against us. Dreamers must *show* their respective communities that a better future is possible but it can only be done if the *community itself* does something about it.

This is a very long answer but I hope it encourages those who have lost heart. For those of you who have found the path easier, thank you - your energy and enthusiasm is recognized.

Thank you for all the media exposure, and for the web page SADOGOOD.  
Please continue to send your news.

### Trees for Thabazimbi

Christelle wrote: I refer to your e-mail of 18.06.2012. You mentioned that you had a tree supplier in Limpopo. Could you please let me have his details or let me know how to contact him?  
We have had a meeting with our local municipality. We are supplying 2101 litter bins to the schools in the town, the businesses and the surrounding area. The schools will be decorating the bins, with paint or any other appropriate material, and we will be making a floating trophy, from recyclable material, to present to the winning school. Next year we will use the same trophy for our next green project. If we manage to get the trees we will include them in this project or perhaps create a separate project altogether.

I include below the list of tree suppliers for those of you who have not yet received it

#### **1. OUTENIQUATREE FARM (Suid-Kaap) Manager: John Beneke:**

Theuns, we have promised the other 10 trees to Elsa in Kirkwood and she has phoned twice to find out if this is still in order! They will be ordering more trees, and I am offering them at cost price less 20%. I undertake to provide my services and trees to the DREAM project at Cost Price less 20%. I basically want to cover my purchase price+expenses+maintenance costs and, by making the trees more affordable, help the DREAM project to progress. I hate constant advertising costs and, instead of enriching the advertising agencies, I think this will be a better way of "marketing" our business.

**2. TREE TRADE (Western Cape) Erna Ashbury is the owner of this nursery:** All the clients of the Dream project would be able to buy in bulk at wholesale prices from Tree Trade. That is the equivalent of 20% saving on all trees. Discount would be offered to bulk deliveries as well. Contact Erna @ 082940 2694

**3. Just Trees (Western Cape) Carl is the owner of this nursery:**"Just Trees is delighted to be part of the "DREAM SA" initiative. We wish all partners the very best in this initiative. Please feel free to contact us as we are offering all DREAM SA partners wholesale pricing for trees needed for this initiative. [sales@justtrees.co.za](mailto:sales@justtrees.co.za) Tel: 021 871 1595 or [www.justtrees.co.za](http://www.justtrees.co.za)"

**4. SIYAKULA NURSERY (Gauteng) Lucy Vermooten is the owner of this nursery:** I received your contact info from SANA, and would like a little more info if possible. We are an indigenous nursery in Hartbeespoort/Brits area. Do you have any communities in this general area you could use our products for? If not, we generally deliver to PTA/JHB once a week or so. We love getting involved in community projects, so please don't hesitate to contact me should you require any further info in this regard. Kind Regards, Lucy Vermooten, Siyakula Nursery Office: 076 639 7949 Cell: 083 330 93995.

**5. COLORWEIS(Limpopo province) Bernard van den Dool is the owner of this nursery:** Shout if we can help in Limpopo province

**Colorweis**

**Bernard van den Dool Bsc. (Agric.)(Hort.)**

(c) +27 83 297 2349 (o) +27 83 255 2327 / +27 83 265 9043; Tel +86 661 8112 (w)  
[www.colorweisnursery.co.za](http://www.colorweisnursery.co.za).

### KIRKWOOD

RCC has volunteered the services of Cedric to help us install supports for the avenue of white ironwood trees – the August winds are early this year and we didn't want to take a chance with these fledging trees.



Cedric, of course, is extremely proud and when we look again he is even picking up litter – this is really *his* avenue of trees :) and we're thrilled.

*Ulrica*

## UTRECHT

Letter 1

Riana Homann and I made the first presentation at our Country Club on 16th May 2012. We invited people to attend using pamphlets, sending out sms's and by personal contact. They were told that the meeting would be about improving and beautifying the town. We were hoping for 30 interested parties but 93 people turned up!



The packed hall in Utrecht!



People of all races attended and the municipality representatives who were also invited didn't arrive. Their non-attendance aroused much criticism from their own people and so we gave them a special presentation on 29th June, which was well received.

“Outstanding proof that if you get the whole community behind you and they all accept that it will improve their future, there won't be anyone able to stop a group of Dreamers” This is your first aim – to get the community geared up to work together.

The presentations also took us to the schools (Bergsig School 7.06.12, Utrecht High School 13.06.12 and secondary and primary grades on 19.06.12. We also made a special presentation to “White City” (a coloured community) on 5.06.12. They are unbelievably enthusiastic. Our first presentation concerned the pollution of the world, and by extension, the pollution in Utrecht, particularly our 2 Main roads, Van Rooyen and Voorstraat. We repeated this presentation several times so that our communities would become AWARE of their environment and its present state. On 30th May we chose a project and nominated leaders who would be able to lead, manage and complete the project.

The response was amazing. The very next day people began to pick up the rubbish in the streets. Having indicated properties which had become derelict, we found that others immediately began to upgrade theirs – aware that their properties could well appear on our next slideshow as examples of neglect. Naturally there are still those, who can well afford it, who have not given us any co-operation but we are positive that they will come on board at a later stage. At our last meeting we were able to show “before” and “after” photos.

Our first project was to upgrade the appearance of the Post Office. It is in the middle of our Main road and very conspicuous.



Wise, choice of highly visible project. This is just the way to advertise your sense of purpose to your town.

The project leader is Ms Laetitia Kotze and her helpers are Mr Anton Snyman, Mr Louis du Pisani and Ms Ronel Voogdt. We are intending to upgrade the 2 main roads and create something in "White City" as well. People are contacting me about our second project and there is a third in the pipeline. Once it has begun, I will let you have further details and photos. I have also sent you photos of our first project at the Post Office garden.

Dream greetings Rika Davel

## GRASKOP

Renda Nel wrote: Hallo there, Well, I see that your town is very busy with the Dream Project; I wish you strength and thank you for keeping me up to date on your progress. Many thanks to you for caring so much about our people, our towns and our country. I would like to ask if I may publish your e-mails regarding the progress made in the various towns in our local newspaper in order to motivate our townspeople. The Editor is keen to publish these items but I want to clear it with you. Thank you very much and strength to you all.

## FRANSCHHOEK

Dear Theuns

I have heard, via Cobie Coetzee of Ceres, about the work you are doing in Bonnievale and I noticed that you need someone to do translations into English. Our home language is English but I am bilingual and am prepared to help with the translation if needed. Every success for the future.

Kind regards

Yvonne van der Westhuizen

A thousand thanks and now Letter Nr. 7 will also appear in English.

## PONGOLA

Good Morning Mr Coetzee. Congratulations on your initiative down there in Bonnievale which now has spread to 47 municipalities country-wide! It can be done! I would like to join hands with you and help to make a difference!

Attached is the introduction to Avantu's presentation. Mr Lohmann Beams will be flying to Cape Town on business and would very much like to meet you if you're interested?

There is a lot of information and I would like to establish what you would recommend. I can e-mail the info. to you with pleasure! Below please find Mr Beam's contact numbers and also his website.

Can you see the impact you are having on other hopefuls?

## YZERFONTEIN

**Hennie Richter** and **Ami Smuts** have sprung into action in Yzerfontein:

Snippets from their correspondence: But ..... "If I'm the boss and you're the boss, who is going to do the work?" (That's so true. Dreamers are ALL workers – there are no bosses!!)

.... Have wondered if it shouldn't be a sub-committee of the Conservation group .... In order for there to be proper oversight (particularly around the hall) of the projects.....

..... Immediately the creative people of this town and those who love the wild flowers and gardens come to mind. Those people of Yzerfontein who give their energy to the Darling Wild Flower Show year in and year out. There are therefore those who could get involved ....

.....For your information: More about this matter on RSG website: DROOM Suid Afrika

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From: Theuns Coetzee (mailto:theunscoetzee@gmail.com)

Sent: 03 July 2012 10:21 AM

Hi Hennie

Thanks for your interest. One thing we do not do is to discourage anyone who wants to dream along with us. There is still enough time before the end of the month to do your planning, so submit your registration. We will accommodate you. I will send you all the other information as well but at present I'm in Kareedouw, busy dreaming with the community.

You indicated that there are only a few people who have indicated that they would help. Well, let me tell you there is not one of the 45 towns where this isn't the case. That's what makes it such a challenge: to get others moving.

You are most welcome to send your documents to us.

Regards

Theuns

Hennie Richter <[hennier@telkomsa.net](mailto:hennier@telkomsa.net)>

Sir, I've been listening with great interest to what's happening in Bonnievale. Although there are certain citizens here who are doers, does this not fall within the jurisdiction of the Town Conservation officials? There is work to be done for those who are inspired by the Dream project. Those who actually want to roll up their sleeves are few and far between but there is a possibility that someone here will take the lead. I will refer that person/those persons to the RSG website.

In regard to the registration: Will there be another opportunity to register next year, as this year is flying by?

Thank you in anticipation,

Hennie Richter

## **JEFFREYS BAY**

2012/7/25

Hallo Theuns, I am very excited about the dreamers of Jeffery's Bay. I wish I could drive you around our town to show you what has already been achieved. Our first phase has to be completed in time for summer season! Since inception on 4th July, we have only 5 months.

Is there an official logo for all dreamers? We would like to make a flag to hoist on the ship at the main beach. If holiday makers can see the difference we've made in our town, they must know that the "Town of Dreams" is alive and well in Jeffery's Bay!! Please let us know or let us have the logo. Thanks very much.

I have read about a competition for Dream Towns in the Leef magazine. It is an article about Amore. But it doesn't say much about the competition. Please advise. Again, many thanks.

I would like to send you some photos of our projects and I am busy putting together a scrapbook of all the news articles.

Blessings

Deon