Bergvliet Meadowridge Ratepayers' Association

Bergvliet Meadowridge Ratepayers Association
BMRA
for the good of the community

Celebrating 75 Years of Service to Our Suburbs

Some Local Civic Organisations

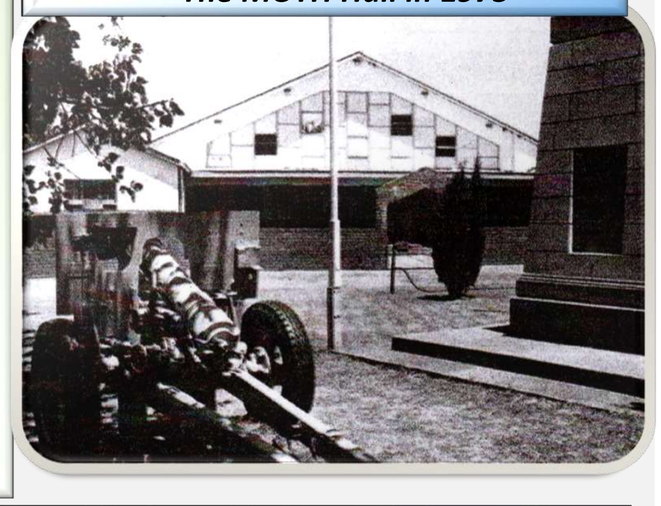
Over the past 75 years, our suburbs have been characterised by the presence of active civic organisations, including our Ratepayers' Association! Some others are Bergvliet Sports Association, Meadowridge Bowling and Tennis Clubs, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and the Memorable Order of Tin Hats (MOTHS).

The Memorable Order of Tin Hats (MOTHS)

After the Second World War, low-cost housing was allocated in the Bergvliet area to returning servicemen. It was therefore just a matter of time before a Shell Hole, known as Dawn Patrol, was formed. The Charter was awarded to Dawn Patrol on 9 October 1950. Initially, meetings took place in the Civic Hut, a wooden shed that was the hub of the community at the time. It was situated where Bergvliet Primary School swimming pool is now located. Executive meetings were held at Jack Friedman's residence above the legendary shop, Pages and Perms. In the early 1950s property was purchased for the Shell Hole and massive fundraising took place to build the Memorial Hall. The foundation stone was laid on 21 August 1955. Legendary "back of the line" concerts, barn dances, and twist and bop sessions were held at the Hall. Many parades took place on the adjacent property where a memorial was erected to remember the fallen. In later years, a few MOTHS got together and raised funds to build eight life right cottages on the property. From its humble beginnings to its current state, Dawn Patrol shines as a beacon to all Shell Holes in the country. The hard work put in by the members and their wives those many years ago continues today.

M.O.T.H.
Established 1950

The MOTH Hall in 1975



PATROLLING FOR PEACE
BKM WATCH

Bergvliet Kreupelbosch Meadowridge (BKM) Neighbourhood Watch was started by local residents, Tony Schreiber and Brian Daniels after a home invasion, and then a hi-jacking and murder of a neighbour in 2005. A door-to-door recruitment campaign brought in the first of many committed volunteer residents. Today BKM has grown to a membership of nearly 75% of the 4000 homes and businesses in the area, with several contributing financially. These contributions enable BKM to make use of CVIC (Constantia Valley Information Centre - a sophisticated control room), have its own camera network, and recently, a BKM tactical vehicle and team. Between volunteer residents and the willing participation of many local security companies, BKM Neighbourhood Watch creates a platform for the collective safety and security of the area.

Meadowridge scouts practising first aid (1960)

Brownies, Girl Guides, Cubs and Scouts - Bergvliet has had an active Brownie and Girl Guide association since the 1950's. Guide meetings are held at the Guide Hall in Glen Alpine Way. There are also active cub and scout groups. 2nd Bergvliet Troop was started by Beaver Rose and Father Duffy of the Bergvliet Catholic Monastery and initially met in St Anthony's Hall on the Main Road. The first Troop meeting was held on 8 February 1963. The Cub Pack was started shortly after the Troop. This was originally a Catholic sponsored initiative hence the colour of the scarf which contains blue, the colour of the Virgin Mary. Ernie Clark was the first Troop Scouter and Eunice Clark was the first Pack Scouter. In 1964 the Troop became a Sea Scout Troop, wearing a navy blue uniform. Scouts from Second Bergvliet sail from the Sandvlei Yacht Club where their Saldanha yachts are stored and many of their scouts have attended jamborees all over the world.

Inaugural plaque at the Girl Guides Hall

Sports Clubs and Associations - our suburbs have active sports clubs that have been much enjoyed by the community over the years and include facilities for tennis, bowls, soccer, hockey, squash and road-running. In addition, the well-kept fields and club houses in Bergvliet and Meadowridge are used for a range of other activities that exemplify the community spirit that has been a hallmark of the area for many decades. Bergvliet Sports Association (BSA) hosts five sports clubs: Bowls, Cricket, Hockey, Squash and Tennis. All members of the five BSA clubs are also members of the Association and have full use of the BSA clubhouse and its facilities. These include a bar, lounge, meeting rooms and areas for indoor activities from aerobics to Zen contemplation.

Bergvliet Sports Association

Councillor Cloete opens the Bergvliet Sports Association on 2 November 1952

BERGVLIET

Meadowridge Bowling Club

Meadowridge Tennis Club

Spartan Harriers Meadowridge Fun Run to raise cancer awareness