

Greater Rustenburg Fire Protection Association



Email: grfpa.fire@gmail.com

WEBSITE: <https://www.grfpa.org/>

VENUE:	Brauhaus Afrika
DATE:	Saturday 17 th Feb 2024
<u>ATTENDEES:</u>	
GRFPA Committee:	Mesdames: Petra Rough (vice Chairperson), Ruth Dawson, Anri Watson Messrs: Hermann Behrens,(Chairperson), Daan Meyer, Hennie Bronkhorst, Jaques Venter, Hannes Kapp
FPO:	Mr Itumeleng Sebako
DFFE:	Messrs: I Setshoane, RJ Kgomanyane, Ms M Mmulutsi
NW PARKS:	Mr P Nel, Ms E Malefo
Members & Visitors:	see attached list
Apologies:	see attached list
Abbreviations used:	GRFPA Greater Rustenburg Fire Protection Association NWUFPA North West Umbrella Fire Protection Association BUFPA Bojanala Umbrella Fire Protection Association CFO Chief Fire Officer DFFE Department Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment FPA Fire Protection Association FPO Fire Protection Officer – this office filled by the CFO of RLM IDP Integrated Development Plan MOU Memorandum of Understanding NVFFA National Veld and Forests Fire Act, (Act No. 101 of 1998), as amended NW North West Province PPE Personal Protective Equipment PPC Personal Protective Clothing RLM Rustenburg Local Municipality SOE State Owned Enterprises e.g.: Sanral, Eskom, Parks Board etc UFPA Umbrella FPA WfW Working for Water WoF Working on Fire

AGENDA:	DISCUSSION/DECISION
1. Opening	Mr Hermann Behrens welcomed all present. It was agreed that the meeting would be recorded. Those present agreed to continue with the meeting. Opening Prayer: Mr Daan Meyer
2. Attendance & Apologies	See attached lists
3. 2023 AGM Minutes	Approved (PJ Nel) and seconded (M Muhl)
4. Introduction of Mr	Mr Sebako introduced himself. He is the Divisional Commander Operations of the

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Itumeleng Sebako (FPO)	<p>Rustenburg Emergency Services. He was officially appointed as the FPO for the GRFPA as Mr Ramothwala is now acting Director of Safety. Mr Sebako is in charge of operations of all 45 wards of the RLM with respect to fire, including available fire trucks and personnel. His duties include enforcing the by-laws and the National Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998 (NVFFA). Our aim is not enforcement, but recruitment – to get more people to join the GRFPA and comply. GRFPA members receive the services of the Fire Brigade without cost. Mr Sebako sits on the quarterly Mining Forum with Anglo and Sibanye and is encouraging them to become members of the FPA.</p> <p>Hermann reiterated that Mr Sebako sits on the exco of the GRFPA and there is a direct link from members through their cluster managers to the Fire Brigade Services.</p> <p>Numbers for Mr Sebako are 014 590 3818 (office) or 060 543 6249 (cell)</p>
5. Questions arising from reports sent out by e-mail:	<p>The following stakeholder reports were sent by email to the members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>5.1. Annual Report 2022-2023 Emergency & Disaster Management 5.2. Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) 5.3. Working on Fire (WoF) Several members queried the rainfall figure in this report which was brought to the attention of WoF – a typing error.</p> <p>No report was received from the NWUFPA by the time of the meeting. There were no further questions from the floor and the reports were accepted.</p>
6. Chairperson's Report:	<p>In August 2023, Mrs Debbie Snyman resigned as chairperson because of family commitments. Mr Hermann Behrens stepped up as chairperson for the remainder of the term. The report which Debbie prepared was read out by Hermann and can be found attached to these minutes. (Annexure B) The report was accepted by the members.</p> <p>Hermann mentioned the website which has been outsourced and encouraged members to let us know if there were anything they would like to see on the website. Members who would like to advertise businesses on the website for a small sponsorship fee should please contact us.</p> <p>Firebreaks cannot be stressed enough. Members please spread the message to non-members to get involved.</p>
7. Financial & Membership Report	<p>A copy of financial statements was handed to members at the meeting. A copy is attached. (Annexure A)</p> <p>Income for the year was from membership fees and a bulk payment of R46951.76 from DFFE. Thanks are due to Mr Stoch and his team at the NWUFPA for all the negotiations to secure a financial contribution from DFFE, who are the custodians of FPA's and are mandated to assist FPA's. This payment is a back payment for several months, but we look forward in the future to receiving a small contribution each month from the DFFE.</p> <p>Expenses for the year: chairpersons honorarium, bank charges, printing, and the website. No equipment was purchased this year.</p> <p>Each cluster received Fire Block for testing in fire suppression. It is an additive to water which increase the retardant properties of water sprayed onto fires. Jaques Venter from the Spruitfontein Cluster reported very satisfactory results using the sample product.</p> <p>There was a question from the floor about the environmental impact. The product advertises itself as non-toxic and 100% biodegradable. The data sheet of Fireblock appears as Appendix D attached</p> <p>Net income for 2023 financial year - R 103 911.89 Closing Bank Balance (31-12-2023)- R 202 879.18</p>

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	<p>It should be noted that no depreciation on equipment has been deducted. Ruth asked for help in this respect and Mr Petrus Nel kindly offered to assist.</p> <p>The budget for 2024 includes outsourcing some secretarial functions and professional fees, especially if we apply for the NPO.</p> <p>Important to note that it is a principle of the GRFPA that no money is spent on providing food or drinks for meetings.</p> <p><u>Membership for 2023</u> – 227 members, down from 2022 (253 members).</p> <p><u>Fire Reports</u> A breakdown of reported fires is included in the handout given to meeting attendees. It should be noted that these are only the fires that are reported to the GRFPA and are probably only a fraction of the total number and damages incurred due to unplanned fires which are not reported. For 2023, 57 fires were reported, the estimated damage was close to R50m</p> <p>Possibly the most telling figure in the fire reports is the man hours spent fighting these fires – 10952 man-hours. This represents a significant contribution by volunteers that is not accounted for in monetary terms in the financial statements. Time lost from the volunteers’ day jobs, their staff wages who assist at these fires, their personal equipment and vehicles and sometimes damage to equipment and vehicles, tyres etc that is borne by our many volunteers. We thank each one for this invaluable contribution to the community.</p> <p>The Financial statements were accepted by the floor.</p> <p>Hermann thanked Ruth for the work she does.</p>
8. Constitution:	<p>Changes to the constitution were necessitated by the Dept of Social Development if the GRFPA were to apply to become an NPO. These were presented at the 2022 AGM and accepted in principle with the proviso that the wording would be reviewed for clarity and accuracy.</p> <p>We would like to thank Mr Petrus Nel who very kindly performed this review and suggested some changes to the wording to bring the section on Income and Assets into line with the NPO and Tax Act.</p> <p>A copy of the changes, with explanation, was on the handout given to attendees.</p> <p>Ruth ran through the changes:</p> <p>Spruitfontein was added as a cluster.</p> <p>Some spelling errors and formatting were corrected.</p> <p>The quorum for AGM and Special General meetings now reads “members present constitute a quorum.” This is in line with other FPA’s.</p> <p>The wording of the section 14 “ASSETS” has been re-worded and additional provisions added in line with the requirements of an NPO and the tax Act. The main thrust behind the changes is to safeguard the assets of the association from being distributed to members or the executive and to prevent the payment of excessive fees to service providers.</p> <p>The changes were accepted by the members present. Once signed, the constitution with these approved changes, will be placed on the Website.</p> <p>Hermann thanked Mr Nel and Ruth for the updates and reminded us that the</p>

AGENDA:	DISCUSSION/DECISION
	<p>constitution is a live document that needs to be kept relevant. He encouraged members to read through the document and if there are any questions or recommendations, please to let the executive know.</p>
<p>9. Membership Fees for 2025</p>	<p>Hermann explained that the object of the fees is not to make money, the fees have been deliberately kept low to encourage membership. Currently the fees equate to R25 per month.</p> <p>A proposed fee increase will bring the fees for 2025 to R350 pa for ordinary members and R2500 for corporates and gated estates, hotels, time share etc</p> <p>Questions from the floor:</p> <p>Q: That members to be able to claim their fees as a tax reduction. A: Mr Nel explained that this needs registration the approval with SARS.</p> <p>Q: That some people are battling and be allowed to pay fees monthly A: The increase in fees will mean R29 a month which, if you are a landowner is really minimal. It is like an insurance policy and also entitles you to free service from the Fire Brigade Service.</p> <p>Q: Mines must pay more. A: Membership for mines will be a formality to be compliant with the ACT. They have their own proto teams. When the mines come on board, and when we are registered as an NPO we will be able to negotiate the possibility of donations.</p> <p>Q: Why do farms operating as commercial farming businesses pay the same as small residential farms. A: Any fee structure needs to be transparent and the criteria for inclusion in each category of landowner has to be specific and verifiable. How do we judge what is a successful commercial farm? One cannot use the criteria of being a CC or (Pty) Ltd as many single-dwelling farms are registered as CC or (Pty) Ltd. We can use a corporate as a criteria, as they are listed on the stock exchange. Its about membership not money.</p> <p>Q: how does it affect your insurance for fire if you are operating a commercial farm. A: if you are a member of the FPA you are a member, irrespective of type of farming. What you are covered for in your farming enterprise will depend on your individual policy.</p> <p>The increase in fees for 2025 was accepted by the Meeting attendees.</p>
<p>10.Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson</p>	<p>According to our constitution the Chairperson and Vice chairperson need to be elected in alternate years. Each serve for a 2-year period. Debbie resigned in August of 2023, with 1 year still remaining of her term. Hermann stepped into the position of Chair and Petra filled Hermann’s remaining term of office which lapses today.</p> <p>Today we need to elect a vice Chairperson for a 2-year term of office and a Chairperson for the remaining 1 year of office. Nominations were called for and two have been received. No more nominations were forthcoming from the floor and Petra Rough was duly appointed for a 1-year term as Chairperson and Hennie Bronkhorst for a 2-year term as Vice Chairperson and</p> <p><u>Appointed positions for 2024:</u></p>

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	<p>Fire Protection Officer (FPO) is Mr Itumeleng Sebako of RLM</p> <p>Secretary and Treasure - Ruth Dawson</p> <p><u>Elected positions: Cluster managers :</u></p> <p>Chosen by the members of each cluster to represent them on the executive committee.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Bafokeng Stock Farmers Union (BSFU)</td> <td>Mr Stephen Diale</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Magaliesberg Land Owners Forum (MLF)</td> <td>Mr Clint Kruger</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Modderfontein, Oorzaak Boschfontein (MOB)</td> <td>Mr Hermann Behrens</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mooinooi</td> <td>Mr Hannes Kapp</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rhenosterfontein, Zuurplaat (RZ)</td> <td>Ms Petra Rough</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Ms Anri van Niekerk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rietfontein Grootfontein, Kromriver, Buffelsfontein (RGKB)</td> <td>Mr Daan Meyer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schoonkloof</td> <td>Mr Leon Lombard</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vaalkop Dam Cluster</td> <td>Ms Naomi Huma</td> </tr> </table>	Bafokeng Stock Farmers Union (BSFU)	Mr Stephen Diale	Magaliesberg Land Owners Forum (MLF)	Mr Clint Kruger	Modderfontein, Oorzaak Boschfontein (MOB)	Mr Hermann Behrens	Mooinooi	Mr Hannes Kapp	Rhenosterfontein, Zuurplaat (RZ)	Ms Petra Rough		Ms Anri van Niekerk	Rietfontein Grootfontein, Kromriver, Buffelsfontein (RGKB)	Mr Daan Meyer	Schoonkloof	Mr Leon Lombard	Vaalkop Dam Cluster	Ms Naomi Huma
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11.General	<p>Mr Daan Meyer paid tribute to the pilots Mr Hennie Viviers and Mr Casper Botha, who tragically lost their lives in an aviation accident in December 2023.</p> <p>Hennie and his son flew the crop sprayers that assisted us in the 2021 Fires in the Buffelspoort Valley. Hennie and Casper are well known and active contributors to the farming and firefighting community in Potchefstroom and we mourn their passing and that of Mrs Botha.</p> <p>Daan paid tribute to Hermann and Debbie for their contribution to the GRFPA and to Petra and Hennie who will carry the good work forward.</p> <p>Petra presented Hermann with a small gift from the GRFPA.</p> <p>A formal tribute to Debbie and Hermann was presented by Ruth. See appendix C attached to these minutes.</p> <p>Hermann thanked every member of the association for the trust placed in the leadership of the GRFPA and wished Hennie and Petra well.</p>																		
12.Way forward from new Chairperson	<p>Having elected a new Chairperson and Vice Chair commencing their duties as of today, a lot needs to be learned and taken over and forward from our predecessors , Debbie and Hermann.</p> <p>The GRFPA would not exist if it were not for the members.</p> <p>All members are therefore asked and tasked with assisting in the growth and the future success of the GRFPA.</p> <p>The executive committee and cluster managers are there to be the voice of the associations members be it on provincial and local governmental levels.</p> <p>Let us grow the GRFPA in law abiding members, willing to be instrumental in assisting each other throughout the fire season to reduce fire risks, assist with runaway fires, and in the daily running of the GRFPA.</p> <p>Each and every member has an attribute that will be beneficial for the association.</p> <p>It is not the executive committee that is the GRFPA, but you as members.</p> <p>Let us all be informed regarding the law and how it impacts ownership responsibility.</p> <p>Be pro-active within your cluster. Get your neighbour involved, report fires within your</p>																		

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	<p>cluster , assist the elderly members . Small gestures reap big rewards!</p> <p>Our aim this year is to communicate more via our portals – website, Facebook and WhatsApp.</p> <p>We are working closer with the NWUFPA which is doing extensive work on governmental level for co-operation and setting standards within the NW, getting equipment for the regions, facilitating in training and much more.</p> <p>Our local FPO, Mr. Sebako (who has taken the position over from Mr. Ramothwala) is committed in assisting the GRFPA and its members and we are looking forward to working with him.</p> <p>We are striving to get the various clusters within the GRFPA to grow and support one another.</p> <p>Let us get our younger generations involved. Not only during fire season but also throughout the year – suggestions are welcome.</p> <p>Be Informed</p> <p>Be Pro-Active</p> <p>You are the GRFPA!</p> <p>Thank you</p>
<p>1. Thanks, and date of next AGM.</p>	<p>Hermann thanked de Wet de Villiers and Mr Callie Scholtfeldt for sponsoring and organising the most welcome tea and coffee for the attendees.</p> <p>Thank you to Brauhaus Afrika for the reduced rate for the hire of the venue.</p> <p>Thank you to each and every member that took the time to come to the meeting.</p> <p>NEXT AGM 3rd SATURDAY OF FEBRUARY – 15th FEBUARY 2025 at 10am</p>
<p>2. Closure</p>	<p>Mr Hennie Bronkhorst closed the meeting with prayer.</p>

2024-02-17 GRFPA AGM – List of Attendees and Apologies

ATTENDEES: (67)

Behrens, EAH
Behrens, HA
Bezuidenhout, W
Bronkhorst, H
Conradie, DHJ
Conradie D
Conroy, M
Conroy, N
Dawson, JSS
Dawson, R
de Boer, T
Du Toit, J
Eylers, G
Geldenhuis, WJ
Geyser, W
Johannsmeier, T
Janse van Rensburg, MJ + 2 guests
Joubert, J
Kanyane, OD
Kapp, JG
Kendall, R
Keyser, A
Keyser, JWD
Kgomanyane, RJ
Klein, G
Lombard, L
Malefo, E
Meyer, DA
Meyer, R
Mmulutsi, M
Moema, O
Molewa, S
Molobye, JM

Motlhagodi, JM
Muhl, ME
Nel, PJ
Nel, P
Pape, DEH
Putu, MJ
Raaths, A
Ramalosa, MN
Raseleka, LP
Rheeder, T
Rough, JB
Rough, P
Scheidegger, T
Schlotfeldt, CF
Schlotfeldt, TR
Schoeman, JM
Sebako, IJ
Setshoane, I
Sibilanga, PL
Steyn, H
Steyn S
van der Westhuizen, T
van Niekerk, Anri
Van Niekerk, Annie
van Rooyen, JM
Venter, J
Visser, K&J
Vlaanderen, S
Wenhold, TT
Wenhold, C
Wenhold, E
Wienand, GR

APOLOGIES: (23)

Bourhill, FB
Coche, L
Diale, DS
Gilbert, I
Haywood, J
Henning, HE
Junod, A
Matumba, F
Modisane, A
Mokua, LG
Nell, RA
Putterill, LB
Reid, M
Roux, K
Schairer, JL
Schoeman, RM
Snyman, LFS
van den Bergh, BSP
Van der Walt, JC
Venter, P
Watson, H
Williams, G A
Schoeman, HN

Greater Rustenburg Fire Protection Association



E-mail: grfpa.fire@gmail.com

WEBSITE: <https://www.grfpa.org/>

Annexure A – Financial & Membership Report

Statement of Income & Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
Income for the period :		
Membership Fees & rejoining fees	R 77 780.00	R 41 350.00
Received from DFFE	R 46 951.76	R 0.00
Training Course Fees		R 8 000.00
Donations & Rejoining Fees Received	-	-
Total Income:	R 124 731.76	R 49 350.00
Expenditure for the Period:		
Purchase of Equipment (Blowers & Backpacks)		
Website	R 10 004.00	R 2 331.12
Honorarium Chairperson	R 5 000.00	R 3 000.00
Bank Charges	R 1 448.25	R 1 409.45
Printing	R 1 540.00	-
Training Course Costs		R 6 659.85
Fire Block for each Cluster	R 2 827.62	
Total expenses	R 20 819.87	R 13 400.42
Net Income for period	R 103 911.89	R 35 949.58

Bank Recon 2023-12-31

Opening balance on bank statement		R97 067.29
Total cash received from members	R79 680.00	
From Umbrella FPA Fees SOE	R46 951.76	
Total receipts	R126 631.76	
Less: Bank Charges	R1 448.25	
Honorarium Chairperson	R5 000.00	
Payment for website	R10 004.00	
Fire Block	R2 827.62	
Printing	R1 540.00	
Total disbursements	R20 819.87	
Net cash inflow		R105 811.89
Closing balance on bank statement		R202 879.18

18 January 2024

GREATER RUSTENBURG FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 1
KROONDAL
0350

WATERFALL MALL 7045
MONTHLY EMAIL

Statement No: 1
Page 1 of 1
Statement Frequency: Monthly

Statement from 18 December 2023 to 18 January 2024

BANK STATEMENT

BUSINESS CURRENT ACCOUNT Account Number **37 228 266 0**

Month-end Balance **R202,879.18**

Details	Service Fee	Debits	Credits	Date	Balance
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD				12 18	201,465.88
MAGTAPE CREDIT 0748671468			1,500.00	12 20	202,965.88
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT FEE	##	85.00-		12 30	202,880.88
FEE: MYUPDATES FOR BUSINESS 0000000372282660 00003 R1.50	##	1.50-		12 30	202,879.18
IB PAYMENT TO TSIMPILO TRADING 1 GSD WEBSITE	8.50	167.00-		01 03	202,712.18
FEE: PAYMENT CONFIRM - EMAIL ELDI C	##	1.50-		01 03	202,710.88

Membership numbers

VAT Summary	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total charge amount (excluding VAT)							
Total VAT							11.49-
Total charge including VAT							11.49-
Paid up Members	253	258	228	228	206	159	132

Budget for the Year 2024

Projected number of members	Private	Estates	
Projected number of members (based on 2023)	227	6	
Fees	R300.00	R1 500.00	
Total projected receipts	R68 100.00	R9 000.00	R 77 100.00
Less: Bank Charges	R2 000.00		
Honorarium Chairperson/Secretary	R5 000.00		
Outsourcing of some administrative functions	R20 000.00		
Professional fees (NPO)	R20 000.00		
Printing	R3 000.00		
Total disbursements			R 50 000.00
Projected net income for 2024			R27 100.00

Equipment purchases will be made as per decision of executive committee

Membership numbers

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Paid up Members	227	253	258	228	228	206	159	132

Membership per Area 2023

AREAS	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
BOONS	4	5	3	3	4	1
BSFU (Bafokeng Stock Farmers Union)	15	25	18	9	1	15
MLF (Magaliesberg Landowners Forum)	64	68	65	58	64	56
MOB (Modderfontein, Oorzaak, Boschfontein)	34	31	34	45	36	34
Mooinooi	15	17	22	20	18	25
NWPB - Kgaswane Mountain Reserve	1		1	1	1	
NWPB - Pilanesberg National Park	1		1	1		
NWPB - Vaalkop Reserve Manager	1		1	1	1	
RGKB	52	54	56	53	51	44
RZ (Rhenosterfontein Zuurplaat)	16	16	18			
Schoonkloof	8	16	16	19	22	20
Spruitfontein	4	6	7	3		
Vaalkop Dam Cluster	12	15	12	9	17	
Moordkop (included in Vaalkop since 2020)					7	6
Independent and unknown			4	6	6	5
Total paid up members	227	253	258	228	228	206

GRFPA Fire Report Summary 2023

Number of fire incidents reported and estimated damage and costs

Number of fire incidents reported	57
Estimated hectares burned	13729
Estimated Financial loss: (loss of grazing, crops, etc)	R41 870 500.00
Estimated damage to infrastructure: (buildings, fencing, piping)	R7 931 019.00
Vehicles damaged	R10 800.00
Fire fighting equipment damaged	R8 000.00
Total estimated Losses and Damage	R49 820 319.00
Approx man hours spent fighting fires (no of persons x hours)	10952

Reported Fires 2023			Financial Loss (R's only)	Reported Damages per category (Rands only)					TOTAL
Cluster	No of Fires	Ha. Burned	loss of income, crops, harvest, trees livestock, rental income	Dwellings Building	Vehicles	Fire Equipment	Fencing	Irrigation & Cabling	
MLF	9	3337	R12 608 000	R7 500 000	R3 000	R0	R110 000	R20 000	R20 241 000
MOB	19	1603	R28 000	R0	R2 000	R0	R31 000	R5 000	R66 000
MOB & MLF	1	300	R975 000	R0	R0	R0	R0	R0	R975 000
MOB & RZ	1	221	R120 000	R0	R0	R0	R60 000		R180 000
Mooinooi	3	2740	R3 315 000	R0	R800	R8 000	R165 000	R15 000	R3 503 800
RGKB	17	4503	R18 564 000	R0	R0	R0	R0	R19	R18 564 019
RZ	2	8	R32 500	R0	R0		R0		R32 500
Schoonkloof	1	60	R390 000	R0	R0		R0		R390 000
Spruitfontein	4	957	R5 838 000	R8 000	R5 000	R0	R9 500	R7 500	R5 868 000
Total	57	13729	R41 870 500	R7 508 000	R10 800	R8 000	R375 500	R47 519	R49 820 319

Annexure B Chairperson's report on the year 2023

The year started very well with all the nice rain we received. We also were aware of the problems we were going to face in the fire season due to all the rain.

We had a meeting which was very successful. Plans were made to get the message out to everyone on how to prepare for the fire season. How to make sure your house , animals and surroundings are protected.

A decision was made to outsource the GRFPA Website. All we need to do now is give the info and it will be updated for us.

Our fires started as early as March 2023. Thirteen thousand, seven hundred and twenty-nine (13729) hectares were reported burned during 2023 and I don't think even half of the fires in our areas were reported.

Everyone by now should know, you as landowner must take the responsibility to make sure you have fire breaks. This year the firebreaks were definitely insufficient, and the strong winds did not help. Sadly, many animals, dwellings and natural areas were burnt.

Sadly in August I had to dismiss myself as Chairperson of the GRFPA and ask our Vice Chairperson to step in. I apologize for not being all over last year but had a lot of family duties to attend to.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the committee members and GRFPA members for all their work and support. Ruth, you have been my left hand, but often my right hand as well, which I appreciate dearly. Thank you.

Looking back we only started with 3 members, but I can gladly say, as of now we have a lot more members and a lot more equipment to help people fight fires. We even have money in the bank. All I can hope for is that more people will realize the importance of joining the GRFPA and making sure of fire safety in and around their properties.

Wishing everyone well and hoping that more firebreaks will be made this year to protect our heritage.

Save water - Don't start a fire !!

Debbie Snyman

GRFPA Chairperson 2005 - 2023

Annexure C: Tribute to Retiring Chairperson & Vice Chairperson

Debbie and Hermann

What a privilege it has been to be part of this team.

It takes a village to raise a child – it takes dedicated and motivated people and a community to raise an FPA! Hermann and Debbie were two such people. When questioned about the history they both modestly mention those that supported them and pay tribute to their “predecessors” in this struggle against fires.

Oom Daan tells me it will take him 2 days to tell me the story of those days when he and Hermann’s father, August Behrens were part of the “Brandbestrydings Vereeniging” and farmers from Rustenburg, Bokfontein, Koster, Swartruggens got together at the Skou Gronde in Rustenburg.

Formalisation of Fire Protection Associations came later and in 2005, Ekkehard Pape urged Hermann to initiate registering the Greater Rustenburg Fire Protection Association (GRFPA), which was done in 2005. Skid units which were donated from Disaster Management are still in use today in the clusters.

Debbie attributes her involvement to the urging of Charles Huckle. We posthumously owe thanks to him for his support of Debbie and tolerance of her absence from the game farm, which she manages, to attend meetings, far and wide.

While fire fighting continued the “organization” part of the GRFPA was dormant until in 2015, Mr Ephraim Mofolwe, CFO of Rustenburg Fire station, Debbie and Hermann (the three members Debbie spoke about in her report) began a revival and with the help of cluster managers, the community, and a bank account, the association as we know it today, began in earnest.

Debbie has been Chair and Hermann, Vice since 2015.

Debbie earned my respect from the very first meeting I attended in 2015. I am proud to call her my chairperson and my friend. It is a privilege for me to have helped her!

She is decisive, she treats all people equally and managed the Association without fear or favour. Her passion for nature is obvious and after a fire she was always distressed about the small creatures that might not have survived.

I think her first waking thoughts are for the GRFPA. As early as 5am, I often received queries, requests, thoughts etc by WhatsApp. It is not always easy to see from the outside just how much work and thought goes into being Chairperson. Decisions have to be made, sometimes at short notice, a huge amount of reading has to be done to keep up with the ACT, the current situations and the NWUFPA. Every word that went out on an official GRFPA flyer, form, document, information sheet, minute etc was diligently reviewed and corrected by Debbie for accuracy and compliance.

To Hermann. Thank you Hermann! A man of few words, but every one of those words is meaningful and logically thought out. He makes wise judgements and these qualities together with selfless service have made him a man of much demand in the community, and earned him respect and a position on many boards and committees. Poor man, he admits openly that he hates meetings! He has endured many of these on behalf of the GRFPA! Thank you for your wise and steadying guidance over the years

He might be a man of few words, but Hermann is certainly a man of action. He has followed in his father, August’s footsteps up and down this mountain. He and other “Mountain Men of Modderfontein” have spent days if not weeks of their lives, putting out fires on the mountain, Hermann always in his shorts! Even though the fires are often in winter, the scorching sun and heat of the fire coupled with the physical exertion to reach the top, makes this an incredible feat. Day and night Hermann can also be found helping to put out fires in the community.

To Hermann and Debbie – thank you for many years of dedicated service to the GRFPA, to its members and to the community. We salute you both and you will be missed!

Ruth Dawson Feb 2024

Annexure D: Fireblock data sheet

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TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

FIREBLOCK AGRI

PRODUCT GROUP:

Polymer Compound

PRODUCT AND ADDICTIVES

Potassium polyacrylate	Aluminium Oxide
Montmorillonite	Iron Oxide
Quartz	Sodium Oxide
Mica	Potassium Oxide
Silicon Dioxide	Calcium Oxide
Magnesium Oxide	

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

FIREBLOCK AGRI is a fire retardant supplied in a powder form to be mixed with water, for the use of the fighting and controlling of class A fires through safe and nontoxic chemical means. FIREBLOCK AGRI is polymer based product with high bonding properties so that it will stick to surfaces protecting them from fire.

PRODUCT BENEFITS

- Burning of Firebreaks
- Fighting of CLASS A Fires and Wildfires
- Protecting of Property against the risk of fires.
- Use in irrigation systems to stop fires.
- Stops embers from reigniting.
- Protects Hay bales from self-igniting

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS

- Sprayed on existing fires to stop the fire in its path.
- Sprayed on burnt ground to prevent reigniting of embers.
- Sprayed on homes and shelters before a fire to stop your home and shelter from burning.
- Used in the burning of fire breaks.
- Sprayed on Hay bales to stop self-igniting.

SUITABLE SURFACES TO SPRAY

All natural and synthetic materials can be safely sprayed.

SHELF LIFE

FIREBLOCK AGRI is hygroscopic and absorbs moisture. Keep sealed and store in a cool dry place. Correct storage results in product having an unlimited shelf life.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Odourless, beige colour powder

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Safe and nontoxic to use
Wash with large quantities of water if ingested or have contact to eyes or skin.
See MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

PACKAGING

FIREBLOCK AGRI is available in the following packing:
40 x 100g sachets boxed
1 x 2.5kg resealable bag.

MIXTURE:

100g sachet is mixed in 20l of water.
2.5kg bag mixed in 600l of water (or with a consistency of 1kg to 240l of water)

APPLICATION:

Spray mixture on with a spray i.e. spray bottle, spray on fire backpack or the spray on a bakkie fire fighting unit. Apply 1 even coat over the area to protect from burning. With strong fires that you are putting out a thicker layer is required.

FILM THICKNESS

We recommend an application of 10-15 m² per litre.

THEORETICAL COVERAGE

10m²

CLEANING OF EQUIPMENT

Clean spray and container with water after use

CLEANING OF ITEMS SPRAYED

Spray clean water on to any item sprayed with FIREBLOCK AGRI that you wish to remove the gel from.

OTHER INFORMATION

DATA ARE TYPICAL OF OUR NORMAL PRODUCTION AND ARE SUBJECT TO NORMAL VARIATION. THEY SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS A BINDING SPECIFICATION.

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