



## Reefsteamers Association

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Letter from : Dennis Edgar. (Chairman of Reefsteamers Association.)

On behalf of : Board of Directors.

Letter to : Reefsteamers Membership and Guests Lists.

Date of issue : 22 February 2011.

Topic covered : Donation request for Depot Water Mains.

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### Donation request for Reefsteamers water mains.

Dear Reefsteamers and Friends of Steam,

As most of you know, Reefsteamers Association is working on paying off a large debt by operating in a strict 'bread-and-a-ghost-of-butter' economy mode. To achieve this, the present administration has had to make some unpopular choices with cutting back on extra expenses and frills. But the results are showing – we have already managed to pay back over R225 000 of our outstanding debt within 6 months! We stuck to the task because what has been built at Reefsteamers is well worth saving!

However, one of the extra expenses that still need to be resolved is that of our problematic water mains. The frequent water leaks that occur are a constant financial haemorrhage that needs to be plugged.



When the depot was first closed to steam traction but then utilized by the 'early' Reefsteamers, a surface-routed water mains pipe was installed. It worked well, but the diameter of the pipe was too small. This caused serious water pressure drops at the consumer-end if more than one tap or hydrant was open simultaneously. Not only was it inconvenient, it was also dangerous in the event of a fire occurring, as it would result in low water pressure for the fire hoses.

A few years ago, Transnet kindly replaced our depot water mains with a wider bore pipe, which solved the water pressure problem. Unfortunately, the material they used is not SABS-rated and it is not UV protected. The result is that our exposed plastic water mains is becoming brittle and is now splitting under the fierce African sunlight.

We literally have a new water leak to deal with every two weeks or so. Reefsteamers is connected to a potable (drinking) water main, rather than an industrial supply, as you might expect. Thus, we are charged expensive domestic rates for water supply and sewerage. Every new water leak represents hundreds, if not thousands, of precious Rands running to waste.

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#### BOARD of DIRECTORS :

D. Edgar (Chairman and Logistics) S. Currie (Secretary and Engineering)  
C. Pretorius (Safety) T. van Wyk (Marketing) A. Van Dyk (Financial)

Reefsteamers Association incorporated under Section 21 of Companies Act. (Not for profit.) Company Registration = 950259008

Furthermore, the patch kits applied to the leaking water mains themselves cost roughly R8000 a year. This money is being 'put up' by individuals, who are later reimbursed ... which is not a professional way of doing things. The water mains is rapidly getting to a state of having more patches than actual piping!



With our budgeted operating costs, a throttled cash flow and our contracted debt repayments, we do not have the liquidity to replace the water mains. However, the longer that we wait, the more money we are wasting.

We are thus making an appeal to Reefsteamers and Friends of Reefsteamers for donations to replace our water mains. The estimated cost of the project, if we provide our own labour, is R12 000. If at all possible, we would like to receive the donations in 'blocks' of R500 – as arrogant as that sounds. That way, if even only 2 dozen people make a donation, we can start the project. That said, we will gratefully receive donations in any increments.

Unfortunately, we need to start and finish this project 'in one go' as Reefsteamers cannot function at all without bulk water.

If we get this job done at the current utilities rates, the savings in eliminating water wastage and not having to buy patch kits will pay for the project within about 9-10 months. .

Please consider what you can give towards this unglamorous but important project. Your gift will be receipted and the funds that accrue will not be used for any other purposes.

Our banking details are as follows.

Bank Name = First National Bank  
Branch Location = East Rand Mall  
Branch No. = 253442  
Account No. = 621 280 068 23  
Account Name = Reefsteamers  
SWIFT = FIRZAJJ

Ref Number = 'Water Mains' - <<your initials and surname>>.  
For example : *Water Mains – JD Bloggs.*

With very best regards,

*Dennis Edgar*  
Chairman - Reefsteamers Association  
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