

Subject: Fw: Knysna Tourism office is a problem
From: "Garden Route Concerts" <mike@gardenrouteconcerts.com>
Date: 2011/06/10, 2:01 pm
To: <info@aestas.co.za>

----- Original Message -----

From: [Garden Route Concerts](#)
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2011 12:41 PM
Subject: Knysna Tourism office is a problem

Morning. I address this to several people but to you specifically because i was told that you are on the new Board for Tourism.

This is a complaint against Knysna Tourism. My association with Knysna Tourism was to supply the headliner for the VIP Oyster function 2010, a show at Loerie Park, 2 workshops for event organizers and a discussion forum regarding eventing in the poorer communities. As a further introduction to me, i attach 3 attached documents. One is the booklet for the eventing workshops. The other 2 fall under the project body, The Keep. The Keep is not yet a charity but it's a place for me to start building project ideas that will help lift the poorer communities. 'Conquering the Knysna Undynamic' makes for a mission statement. 'Our Knysna' is one project idea relevant to Tourism. Please view www.knysnakeep.org. I also intend starting another website that better reflects Knysna as a whole. Tourism's isn't good enough.

From my experience of Shaun van Eck and some of the staff (emphasis on "some" only as front desk appears to be awesome), i'm disapointed and angry because there is a lack of transparency, professionalism and honesty. I believe that they do not have a team, there's mishandling of funding and that a better direction needs to be chosen that better represents the town itself. I also have a queries Tourism and Worldsport's roles for Oyster Fest.

Personally, a workshop of mine was cancelled a day before i was to be paid the deposit. Shaun van Eck failed to give a reason for the past 6 weeks. It was tragic for me as the entertainment industry was the first hit by the recession and finding business has been difficult. But it broadens into a larger concern as we've had discussions since last year regarding a larger plan for the community. The workshops i hosted were a prelude to the bigger picture which included practicals. Workshops without practicals are a waste of taxpayer's money. And i believe that there has been a lot of waste. So late in the year and there is still no community plan! Why does Tourism, with support or apathy from the municipality, fail to help all communities of Knysna.

Several other proposed projects have not had an official response. "Good ideas", in Shaun's words, do not suffice. Knysna Tourism is disorganized.

As a member of the public, several requests for public information has not been provided after 2 weeks (websites are long out of date). I seek budgets, the latest AGM report and details of community projects (not an advertorial but real information that shows that Tourism is utilizing budget wisely). I sent the same request to the Mayor's office via email but also failed to get a response. These are essential so as to determine if budgeting has been wisely distributed.

The negative impression i've received is undoubtedly shared with some. There's a bigger picture than just my experience. We need to define it and deal with it so as to help our town, especially during this challenging Recession. I believe that it's imperative that we bring these matters to the public's eye and ensure that the new municipal government gives it the attention it deserves. Unlike those who are applauding the DA, i believe that they have to prove themselves first (the mayor failed to respond to me). But, before all that, and before i publish more specific blogs, i approach the Board (whose names are not even posted on the website) and members of Tourism for clarity.

As i've clearly stated in an email to Shaun, i do not wish to deal with him as he is a liar. That is a bad embodiment for Knysna Tourism. I do not wish to be a member of Tourism in its current state.

I don't know who certain Tourism staff have allegiances with so this is an open letter. Your response would be appreciated. Let's sort.

Thank you.

Wicked Mike

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Garden Route Concerts - gardenrouteconcerts.com

Garden Route Ubuntu Music - gardenrouteconcerts.com/grum

The Keep (Knysna Education & Enabling Project) - knysnakeep.org

The Best South African Music Videos - youtube.com/user/playsouthafricaloud

Garden Route Concerts Facebook Group -

facebook.com/group.php?gid=111025602262811

"The world's a stage and the people prancing upon it are actors; empty shells of living that haven't realized that opinion is proportionate to knowledge and belief proportionate to action."

— Attachments: —

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| Conquering the KNYSNA UNDYNAMIC.pdf | 56,4 KB |
| Our Knysna (The Keep project).pdf | 191 KB |
| GRUM - Events Workshop booklet.pdf | 540 KB |