

Wilderness Ratepayers & Residents Association would like to take this opportunity to express our condolences to Ann Hadley on the passing of her husband, Councillor Ian Hadley.

In collaboration with Waleaf, Danie Marais - the Ward Committee member for the B&Bs, concerned members and affected property owners, the Association has been successful in halting questionable constructions in the Wilderness area. We thank all concerned for assisting us in this critical role of preserving the sense of place of our Wilderness. It seems that the Municipality intends to disband the present Aesthetics Committee, which is a voluntary group, in favour of a Town Planning body. We are strongly opposed to this move and are therefore contesting the proposed change. We have also approached Province in our quest to find a solution to the Wilderness Heights squatter camp.

We are also in contact with the Provincial traffic authorities in connection with the monitoring of the Kaaimans truck stop. A warning to all our members that there is a R600 fine applicable for using a cell phone without a hands-free kit while driving, and George traffic department are on the look out for culprits. Still on transport matters, we have been advised that Wilderness is to be included on the new bus route to be introduced ahead of 2010.

We would also like to warn our Wilderness East members that petty theft may increase with the return of a couple of well known vagrants to this area, so please keep your doors closed if you're not going to be in the immediate vicinity. The SA Police patrol vehicle has maintained a high visibility around the neighbourhood lately. The vehicle has an on-board fingerprint recognition unit for the immediate identification of wanted criminals. They also carry an **emergency cell phone (082-444-4326)**, and we have received several reports of rapid response to incidents after calls have been placed to this number. We are indeed fortunate to have a dedicated police service in our neighbourhood.

We continue to engage the municipality in the rates debate. A presentation given to the Municipal Finance Committee, under the chairmanship of Councillor JST Alberts, included a number of questions that we expect to be answered. A meeting was also held with the Mayor, Mr de Swardt, DA Leader Helen Zille, and DA MP Marius Swart to discuss our problems with engaging the municipality in meaningful dialogue. Mrs Zille made a positive recommendation that the mayor consider taking an independent opinion regarding the current impasse. Our portfolio holder for Municipal Services has attended a meeting with various role players concerned about the pollution of the Touw River above the Wilderness purification plant, because of the squatter camps. Various precautions, such as additional toilet facilities, are being put in place. A follow-up meeting will be held in early December. The Association wishes to thank Gilly Lay, who with the assistance of Gillian van den Houten, took it upon themselves to clean up the graffiti and repaint the access tunnel from the CBD area to the beach. The Association was pleased to be able to sponsor this exercise by supplying the paint and brushes. Gilly also planted and takes care of the garden at the Sands Road end of the tunnel, and, as she is moving out of our area, is looking for someone to continue the upkeep of this garden. Do we have any volunteers? A collection box has been placed at the new Wilderness Nursery to assist in funding this project. Notice of the AGM to be held at 18h00 on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December at the Fairy Knowe Hotel will be sent out next week. We invite members to join us for an informal cheese & wine after the meeting.

