

Newsletter 2009 June

What a pleasure to be able to begin this month's newsletter on a high note. We are very proud of our astronomer, Case Rijdsdijk, for being awarded a special accolade in recognition of his outstanding contribution to science, engineering, technology and innovation, and for his enthusiastic communication of physics and astronomy to pupils, at this year's National Science and Technology Forum Awards ceremony. Congratulations from us all, Case!

Of great interest to the committee and to the municipality's technical side is the result of a survey WRRRA conducted among 102 members around the Wilderness East area. The key question was whether municipal sewerage reticulation was considered a priority, based on a 2009/2010 quoted capital contribution cost of R15,240 per household. We received a 62% response, 68% of whom answered no. The survey showed that of key concern is law enforcement at 78%, followed by building control (71%) and road maintenance in third place with 60%.

With only the odd shower here and there so far this entire year, the municipality has had to tighten up further on water restrictions. The use of hosepipes is now banned altogether. Gardens may only be watered with buckets or watering cans, although at any time of the week..

Bad news is that one of our members had her handbag snatched from a shopping trolley in one of George's supermarkets, resulting not only in a loss of money, but the huge cost and inconvenience of having to replace house and car keys, credit cards, I.D., driving licence, etc. Please be aware of what's going on around you, and keep your possessions firmly secured at all times when out and about.

The 2009/10 municipal budget was approved by the council and, unsurprisingly, no notice was taken of our objections regarding their withdrawal of our additional 5% discount. We can now expect to fork out that 5% plus an additional 9% inflationary increase. We are not intending to just let this pass, so will keep you updated with developments as we follow alternative paths to have the validity of our objections recognised.

Wilderness SAPS have asked us to advise members that the emergency mobile number is operational once more, being **082-444-4326**. However our emergency SMS service has been temporarily disconnected until the new George emergency call centre is completed within the month. The planned fire sub-station for this area, which WRRRA hoped would be in Wilderness, is to be stationed in Hoekwil, as the municipality feel Hoekwil is equidistant to Wilderness and Touwsrante, the latter being more of a potential fire hazard.

Members of the Committee have received complaints about uncontrolled dogs wandering around the streets, as well as the illegal dumping of garden refuse on empty erven. Please would dog owners make a concerted effort to keep their pets off the roads. As far as garden refuse is concerned, please bag or bundle and tie up your garden waste and leave it out with your household refuse on collection days. Household waste should be greatly reduced with the introduction of recycling, allowing for the use of 4 or 5 of the permitted 7 bags of refuse to be used for garden trimmings each week. We are hoping to reintroduce a garden refuse vehicle to follow the garbage truck, and collect any excess cuttings.

Finally, the next Public Liaison Meeting for the Sands Road municipal sewerage installation will be held at 9.00a.m. on Wednesday 21st July at the Wilderness Station.