

Wow! Our thanks to Tracey Pharoah for designing this newlook letterhead for us. With our increasing contact with municipal and government officials, the committee believe we need to project a more focused and professional look for WRRRA.

It was refreshing to see 36 members at last month's Neighbourhood Watch meeting, particularly as security has become an increasingly important topic in Wilderness, with several meetings held in this regard over the past month. A formally registered Neighbourhood Watch has been operating in Wilderness for over 15 years. However Chairman, Pat Walsh, feels that the time has now come to take this official organisation to the next level, which will cater for the more active approach favoured by some residents (see below), without losing the formal contacts and experience gained over the years. Pat also feels that this new approach will be better served if the Neighbourhood Watch falls under the umbrella of WRRRA. There is a special meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch to be held at **17h00 on Monday 10th May** at the Fairy Knowe Hotel to decide upon the best way forward for the organisation. Pat has decided to stand down as Chairman in order to facilitate the new approach, but has also indicated his willingness to oversee an orderly transition to a new Chair. This meeting will determine the way forward for the formally registered Neighbourhood Watch organisation, so your participation in the process is vital if we are to maintain a sustainable security strategy. Please make every effort to attend the special meeting on Monday, to voice your opinions and participate in a very important transition process.

A privately organised security meeting held at the old Protea Hotel on 19th April drew a large attendance. Inspector Boshoff reported there are two police vehicles to patrol the Wilderness area during the week, with four vehicles being available on weekends. When there are enough people on duty, the police do patrols on foot as well. In addition, plain clothed police inspectors patrol from time to time in a plain van with a blue light. It was stated that residents require better information, communication and service from security companies in our area. It was emphasized that information between residents is critical, and that we must learn to take responsibility for our own security. An SMS security alert is to be implemented, which could possibly be incorporated into WRRRA's existing emergency alert system. Some people showed a keen interest in neighbourhood patrols. Michael Hill, past Commander of George police station, will assist with the training of people to patrol in designated areas. Interested members can contact Vanessa Hau-Yoon on 044-877-0192 for further information.

Security companies are complaining about a lack of visible house names and numbers, especially in Wilderness Heights. Once more we must appeal to members to ensure that your home can be easily identified in the event of an emergency. SAPS have invited members to attend the Community Police Forum meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month in the York Street Civic Hall, so that the Police Commissioner can hear what our concerns are at first hand. A reminder here to record the mobile number for the Wilderness police van (**082 4444 326**) in your cellphone

We wish to record a special word of thanks to the members who attended the IDP/Budget meeting at Touwsrante last month. Although some may feel it was mainly a waste of time, the strong showing gave credibility to the Wilderness contingent, particularly as the municipality presented a slick road show with a record number of officials in attendance. WRRRA proved that we are a strong entity that cannot be disregarded or written off. Be warned, however, that there is no provision in the budget for any expenditure for Wilderness for the next two years. We are thankful, therefore, that the Wilderness waterworks has been upgraded with bigger pumps to improve the provision of water to us.

Southern Cape Recycling has brought to our attention the fact that some residents are placing empty milk and fruit-juice cartons, together with other household garbage, into the blue bags. We've even seen banana skins in some of these bags, so would ask homeowners to ensure that only recyclable items are placed in the blue bags. A list of acceptable items for recycling can be found on our website. The municipal refuse collectors have been instructed not to collect blue bags.

Congratulations and welcome to Dot Brink of The Tops for becoming our 300th paid up member. Membership is increasing rapidly and now stands at 319 households.

This secretary is shortly to move home (and therefore office), so please bear with us if it takes a little longer to respond to your emails and calls. Adieu and stay safe until next month.