

## Newsletter 2010 June

Firstly a reminder to residents of Sands Road that you are now required by the municipality to contact a plumber who will prepare a site drawing of the required pipe layout to connect your plumbing to the newly installed municipal sewer system, and submit this to Mr. Rowe of Civil & Technical.

Following a lengthy article in The Edge promoting the Outeniqua Cycleway in lieu of the restoration of the Choo Tjoe, WRRRA's committee supports the restoration of the Choo Tjoe train service between Wilderness and Knysna, regarded as one of the top ten steam rail experiences in the world. A tourism meeting was recently held in the village with Minister Alan Winde, who felt that a business plan presented by private enterprise for the reintroduction of the Choo Tjoe was a good one and held much merit. The loss of this iconic service has had a huge impact on tourism in the Garden Route, especially smaller places such as Wilderness. We have lost more than 60 bus groups per month, resulting in a substantial decrease in business. Please let us have your views.

At the other end of the scale, WRRRA has strongly objected to the proposed demarcation of George, whereby the municipal boundary will be extended as far as Uniondale, which is 110km away and geographically closer to municipalities such as Knysna, Bitou and Kou Kamma. George municipality has serious financial problems and has produced an unworkable budget. Service delivery is already questionable and stretched to its limits. We are therefore in no position to take on any added responsibilities.

We also require input relating to treacherous spots on Whites Road. The municipality has accepted that this road is very dangerous, and has agreed to erect danger signs where required. The speed limit should be no more than 40kmh.

As a result of a number of meetings held relating to security concerns, WRRRA will be issuing monthly feedback on this topic. Although crime in Wilderness has diminished after a number of arrests, the area along the railway line adjacent to Sands Rd continues to harbor vagrants and to be of concern. It is important that residents communicate with others in their particular suburb or block, and exchange information on security issues. Any suspicious activity must be reported to the police. In the case of an incident, residents should open a docket with the police, as they are only able to work on cases where a docket exists. Most break-ins take place in the mornings in residential areas, where doors and windows are often left open. Ungaraged vehicles are being broken into at night. Times are changing, even in The Wilderness, and we must learn to take more responsibility for our own security. Please also be aware that skimming devices are in use by criminals at ATMs. The next Neighbourhood Watch meeting will take place at the Fairy Knowe Hotel on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 17h00.