

2011 February Newsletter

Following concerns expressed regarding the criteria used to decide when to open the Touw River at the lagoon area, we have been advised by Sanparks that there is a new draft Management Plan available on their website www.sanparks.org.za. Furthermore, any members interested in alien weed control are invited to attend a meeting at Loerie's Nest at Ebb & Flow at 9am on Monday 7th February. The meeting will be conducted by Herman Jungbauer-Rudman, Cluster Manager for Garden Route Parks, to strategize on the eradication of alien weeds. Sanparks also advise that 6th Avenue boardwalk will be closed for 3 months for maintenance.

Another website worth checking out is www.setplan.com for the draft of the updated Wilderness Structure Plan. The deadline for public comment is 21st February, and all our members are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to influence the future of our Wilderness.

For those who missed the notice in the George Herald, the George Fire Department now has a dedicated line for fire calls only. The number to call in future is 044-805-5111. We would also like to draw your attention to the fact that Tjoe Choo railway sleepers are being stolen. Several proposals are in the pipeline for the restoration of the railway line, so we urge our residents to keep an eye out for the perpetrators and to report it to our local police or to the Association. Please note that your Committee members' contact details have been updated on our website. Feed-back from the Neighbourhood Watch is that 12 house robberies took place over the holiday season, 1 vehicle was stolen and there were 3 thefts from vehicles. The police report that the stolen goods are disposed of immediately via a syndicate network.

Additional contributions were paid in for Johan Boshoff's retirement gift, bringing the final figure to R1500, which will be presented to Mr. Boshoff on our behalf by past Chairmen Bob McIntyre and Pat Walsh. Following his retirement, the Wilderness/George staffing structure is to be reorganized allowing for regular inspections of our roads and pavements via Jacques Quinot of Civil and Technical Department in George.

Continuing with municipal matters, the waste water treatment plant at Kleinkrantz is to be upgraded to meet the future requirements of the Wilderness area. Harold Basson, head of Civil Engineering Services, has extended an invitation to interested parties to attend the George Water Forum meeting to be held in the Banquet Hall at the Civic Centre in York Street on Tuesday 15th February at 09h00. The topic will be: Drought Crisis – Management, Challenges & Solutions. Attendance at the meeting should be confirmed by 11th February with Teresa on 044-801-9278 or Levienia 044-801-9268.