

The long anticipated Information Map has finally been mounted on the Wilderness Wall behind the Caltex garage in the village. The map was commissioned by WRRRA and sponsored by Andrew Scott of Exhibitions SA as an information service to residents and visitors alike. The map is the first stage of a project aimed at making basic information about the location of businesses and services within the village available on a 24x7 basis. The map will soon be supplemented with an index of all businesses in and around the village, as well as a list of emergency numbers, which should be completed by mid August. The final phase of the Wilderness Information Map project will consist of covering the map area with a canopy or shelter, and installing solar powered lighting. We are still looking for sponsors for this final phase of the project. The business index will be updated every 3-6 months and the map every 12 months. We invite our members to comment and make suggestions as to how we can improve this vital community service.

A negotiated settlement arranged through the State Attorney's office, which includes payment of our legal costs, has finally elicited a response from the Liquor Board regarding their reasons for granting a liquor license to Wilderness Liquors. There are a number of elements in their reasoning that remain unclear, and we are therefore seeking clarity on these issues before reporting back to you in detail, and seeking your revised mandate.

Warrant Officer Benny Boshoff, the new station commander for Wilderness SAPS, has reported the following local crimes: A burglary in Kingfisher Close at a house in Frederick Avenue; a burglary in Southside; one on Whites Road and a burglary in the CBD. Crime in Wilderness is much lower than our surrounds for the month of July. There was one farm robbery and two thefts out of motor vehicles (both not locked and goods left on display). One very good arrest was made last week where an armed syndicate of three was taken down on the N2 at the village. Intelligence has it that they were bound for Die Duin but they are now in custody. Warrant Officer Boshoff also advised that most criminals attempt break-ins just after working members leave for the office, or after dark.

The committee has noted, and will tackle, the following reported problems: dumping of refuse behind the Blue Olive Restaurant and Mini-Market, adjacent to the glass recycling container, and an overflowing conservancy tank in Lake Road.

A study, funded by the Water Research Commission involving Swartvlei and Wilderness Vlei, is being undertaken by Aneri Vlok, a post-graduate based at NMMU, as part of her Masters Degree. Aneri advised the committee that WRRRA and Sanparks represent important influencing factors for the research being undertaken.

Continuing the saga around general revaluations of properties, which we know was a flawed exercise, all members unhappy with their latest valuation, or that of a neighbour, are urged to take responsibility and submit an objection/appeal to council ahead of the end September/early October sitting of the Valuation Appeal Board. Please also note that the objection/appeal process is unlimited.

It is also coming up for subscription renewal time, with 2013 billing advices due to be sent to you towards the end of this month, so please start saving up – we really do need and value your ongoing support. We would also like to encourage you to talk to your neighbours, and get them to also sign up if they are not already members. Times are getting tougher, which means we need more unity in the community, in order to hold back any excesses of our elected representatives.

