

THE PRINGLE MESSENGER

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ARBOR DAY AT THE FIRE STATION

The grounds around the new Fire Station were alive with activity on 1st September when Eco School pupils planted trees, shrubs and ground-covers to beautify the area and stabilise embankments. A pet sheep kept dogs away from the newly grassed area around the braai while teachers supervised the labour efforts of the youngsters. All in all a very satisfying spring morning for Clayton to celebrate the first public engagement at the new building. Final work is underway tiling the ablutions and kitchenette. An official opening followed by a Firewise Public Open Day are being planned as we move into the fire-season.

CRIME

There is a continued high level of break-in crime by the so called "window gang". The culprits are typically foreign nationals based in the Strand who are dropped off and picked up on the R44. They use pathways to enter and leave the area. The majority of break-ins have occurred in houses where alarms were not activated. The crime is often only detected the following day. Failure to set alarms means that security forces are not alerted to the presence of the criminals until it is too late to act. It also lets the criminal network know that this is a soft spot target area and encourages more crime. **Be responsible and set your alarm at night.** Be aware that if there are visiting cars or obvious weekend guests chances are good that there will be cellphones, wallets, tablets etc ready for the picking. Criminals know this! Warn visitors to be careful.

BABOON MANAGEMENT

The committee is grappling with ways to resolve the baboon issue. There was a mixed response to the August communication relating to Virtual Fencing. 49 people responded to the appeal with the majority supporting virtual fencing and agreeing to continue their financial support. Concerns relating to conservation aspects will be discussed in a public

meeting before reaching a final decision on the matter.

The overall financial commitment is so far insufficient to continue with monitoring or to introduce virtual fencing. As things stand we will stop the monitoring process at the end of September to preserve remaining funds until reaching finality on the way forward.

We have not yet found a sustainable solution for operational support of Virtual Fencing. Although the time commitment is small it must be done reliably to ensure ongoing integrity of the fence. We have approached ASK for support but have not yet had a response. We understand from the municipality that ratepayer-funded Virtual Fencing will soon be introduced in the Voelklip area of Hermanus and will be supported by the local security company. We welcome any ideas people may have for resolving this problem. We also need to emphasise that continuing with the current monitoring process is probably not sustainable. The costs are simply too high to manage on a voluntary basis.

BROCHURE AND WEBSITE

The new "Welcome to Pringle Bay" brochure is available from local estate agents. We thank Mike Schalit for developing the art work and arranging printing of this beautifully presented fold-out document. It provides newcomers with a brief guideline for living in our environment. Our Secretary, Ilse Meyer is now running with development of the proposed new website. If you have any ideas relating to web design or content please contact her at: membership@pringlebayratepayers.co.za. The intention is to incorporate advertising content for local businesses and enable interactive linkage to social media.

PBRA

The financial year-end is fast approaching. There are still several members who have not yet paid their subs. Please do so as soon as possible.

It is also time to look for new committee members. The current Chairman will be standing down after four years and is not available for re-election. We need new faces and fresh energy to keep things going. If you look back to the past you soon realise the challenges we face today are little different to the past. Crime, baboons and an unresponsive municipality. So – have a look around and encourage new residents to get involved in the community. It is rewarding to be involved and keep the brain active.

HACKING ALIEN VEGETATION

The Pringle Bay Hack takes place on the last Sunday of each month. The hack group has grown and is very active and effective in removing aliens from municipal owned verges and open space property. Our biggest environmental threat is Australian Myrtle which is currently in flower and spreading it's evil seed. We encourage all to learn to recognise this plant and help remove it. The young plants are very easy to pull by hand at this time of the year but is painstaking work because of the high density. If anyone is willing to start a biological control programme for myrtle please contact us.

The hack is organised by Chris Geldenhuys (028 273 8588) and welcomes all-comers; young and old. Mid morning tea, coffee and sandwiches are sponsored by the Mini Mart with beers at the end for the thirsty. Chris will also arrange clearance of alien vegetation on private land in order to preserve fynbos.

VILLAGE CENTRE

Observant people will know that the village centre is much tidier than it used to be. This is largely thanks to the efforts of Boudewyn de Vries who regularly cleans up rubbish and sees to the maintenance of verges and garden beds. We would like to refurbish the old notice board alongside Miems for use as a Conservancy Information board. If anybody is willing to help with this please let us know.

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