

The holiday season has come and gone, and, while many of our homeowners have had to return to traffic, noise and stress, those of us who live in Bushman's can now kick back and relax in the peace and quiet of the Village. Having just returned from a flying visit to London, complete with an 18 year blizzard that brought the great city to a halt, I am truly thankful for the sun and warmth that greets us most days!

Our AGM was held in December, and, though well attended there were not too many volunteers willing to join the committee. This, however, was a temporary problem and within a very short while, after a special general meeting, a new committee was elected – names and portfolios of which are as follows :

Lötter Wepener – Chair/Legal/NRF/  
Disaster Management  
Sheila Swanepoel – Vice Chair/ Ward 3/  
NRF/Disaster Management  
Eric Smith – Treasurer  
Wendy Grové – Secretary/Newsletter  
Oorlog Botha – Roads/Vacant plots/  
Street signs and traffic/Parks  
Corris Krogscheepers – Roads/Vacant  
plots/street signs and traffic/Parks  
River/Beaches/Health/Sewage/Refuse/  
Estuary Care  
Duncan MacTaggart – Riversbend  
Piet Mouton – Legal  
Andrew Murray – River/Beaches/  
Health/Sewage/Refuse/Estuary Care  
Bill Northrop – River/Beaches/  
Health/Sewage/Refuse/Estuary Care  
NRF/Disaster Management  
New Developments/Building  
regulations/Potable water  
Ian Smith – Safety and Security/Website  
Anton Vosloo – River/Beaches/  
Health/Sewage/Refuse/Estuary Care

All committee member details are on the website, so, sign up and become a member and feel free to contact any of the above should you have a concern with regards to the wellbeing of Bushmans River Mouth. Website:  
<http://www.brm.org.za>

The committee decided that the Association's motto will be "We make the difference" – and to that end we have adopted the name (to be approved at the next special general meeting) – Bushmans River Mouth Ratepayers Organisation/Boesmansriviermond Belastingbetalersvereniging) – with the acronym BRRAG.

So – we can finally put the MOUTH back into Bushmans River! And this we did without any further hesitation when we successfully obtained a court order against Ndlambe ordering the municipality to stop the sewage spillage into the Bushmans River that has been occurring for quite some time. Previous requests to Ndlambe had been ignored and it was decided that it was now time to be more pro-active. This move has received wide publicity in both the press and TV and it is hoped that it will be a wake up call to the municipality that it can no longer ignore the rights of its residents when it comes to service delivery.

The committee has also decided to commence a self-help project in order to clean up the town. To this end we have acquired a vehicle (per kind donation from Lötter Wepener ) and will be employing our own staff when necessary to assist with jobs that we can manage without incurring capital expenses. We are confident that we will make a difference in this way and improve and maintain the town for the benefit of all.

In order to achieve all of the above we have also embarked on a major fundraising drive and appeal to all ratepayers and residents to please sign up and contribute at least the annual membership fee of R100. Any further donations will be most welcome and we ask all to try and dig a little deeper into your pockets so that we CAN make the difference. Payments may be made directly into the Association's account which is as follows:

Account name: BRMRA  
Bank: ABSA Branch Code: 632005  
Acc: 9136496160  
Fax proof of payment to 0866719001

Another positive move is that we have had extremely positive discussions with Kenton on Sea Ratepayers Organisation (KOSRA) and have agreed to join forces on matters of wider or mutual concern where such issues are not dealt with by the Ndlambe Ratepayers Forum (NRF). The two associations will maintain their individual autonomy but there are numerous concerns that affect both sides of the River and a good working relationship can only be of benefit to all.

A reminder that there will be a **Special General Meeting at 9am April 11 at the Bushmans Town Hall** in order to adopt a proposed amended Constitution. See the proposed new constitution on our website.

Two looming concerns are the proposed new valuations and water billing. To date Ndlambe has not revealed any information regarding the final valuations and we will put it on the website as soon as there is anything to report. We are also investigating the validity of the proposed new water billing.

Not much rain – please use water sparingly - the crowds are gone - the sea is gorgeous and the River is deliciously quiet!

Until next time – Wendy  
(Late note – had 66mm of rain in the last two days!!!!!!)