



Chairman's Report 2023 AGM

The JRA has had a busy 2023 organising various activities as well as liaising with the Hessequa Municipality and outside contractors.

The following issues were dominant during 2023:

- Installation of fibre throughout the town;
- Major flood damage and subsequent reparation;
- Water supply;
- Formation of a strong, active Neighbourhood Watch.

1. Installation of fibre

I advise with great pleasure and satisfaction that Jongensfontein has been converted to fibre. Although the laying of the fibre has been a seamless operation undertaken by Openserve the start up on the Eastern side was not without its challenges and the system “went down” due to overload on a regular basis, particularly during the evening peak. Fortunately, the JRA committee developed a close relationship with Openserve during the initial phase of the project and we jointly managed to resolve the teething problems in a short period of time.

Kick starting the fibre project in the western half of Jongensfontein was a major challenge. For reasons that can only be described as the “insanity of red tape” Openserve were informed that, in terms of the municipality’s Wayleave Policy, they could not use the existing wooden poles in Jongensfontein West and all fibre had to be laid underground. This would, quite simply, not have been a cost-effective option. The JRA intervened and thanks to the patience of Openserve and the perseverance of our Ward Councillor Tinus van den Berg work commenced in Jongensfontein West in late September and was completed in early December. Live tests have been successfully undertaken and Openserve are in the process of connecting to various houses.

2. Major flood damage and subsequent reparation

It was with a heavy heart that I inspected the serious damage to the “Tidal Pool” area, Strand St and other sections of Jongensfontein as a result of freak waves and wind which battered our town on Saturday 16th September.

We were the worst hit town in Hessequa.

I attended an emergency meeting chaired by the Municipal Manager of Hessequa on the 19th Sept. and it was agreed that the JRA will assess the cost of damage to the assets it has provided while the Municipality will do likewise for the rest of the damage.



Immediately after the flood, Hessequa Municipality excelled themselves with clean-up operations in Strand St and ensured that electricity was restored to affected parts of town by Sunday 17th September. In early October a sub-contractor, commissioned by Hessequa, commenced reparations to the Tidal Pool parking area which was devastated by the storm. The job was completed in early November, and we now have a larger car park with an excellent surface finish.

Turning to the JRA assets both Lapas were destroyed and washed out to sea, two of the braais were badly damaged and various signs and safety buoys simply disappeared.

The JRA initiated a flood disaster relief fund and collected just over R70 000. I wish to convey my sincerest thanks to all those wonderful people who donated so generously.

At the time of writing we are completing two new Lapas which will be paved and provided with a round table and three benches. The braais have been repaired, and I am waiting for a safety buoy with rope which will be placed near the pool.

Finally, thank you to the municipality for replacing the handrails and constructing a new stairway.

In short “die swemgat is nou reg vir besigheid”.

3. Water supply

As you all know, water is our most precious commodity and I check our dam and pumphouse on a daily basis. This past year has, however, been a difficult one in terms of an ageing waterpipe reticulation system which is prone to burst pipes with the subsequent loss of large amounts of water.

This has been particularly prevalent in the old larger diameter asbestos pipes leading to and from the reservoirs as well as a main feed pipe running alongside Fonteinsingel which burst and caused major damage to the road recently.

The municipality are in the process of tackling this issue and we currently have a contractor on site who is replacing the old pipes with new PVC thick walled piping in the areas mentioned above.

Maintaining a constant and adequate water supply is also difficult with load shedding and owners who selfishly disregard water conservation rules.



4. Neighbourhood Watch

Forming a good Neighbourhood Watch Group in Jongensfontein over the past few years has not been successful and we generally seem to have paid lip service to the whole concept.

Fortunately this has changed in recent months thanks to the dedicated efforts of a core group of people most capably led by Henry Matthyser.

Between them they have picked their way through a minefield of SAPD rules and regulations and Jongensfontein can now boast a strong and vibrant “Buurtwag” with regular patrols at night and meaningful interaction with the police in Stilbaai.

5. Other Matters.

Turning to other matters, the following is a copy of an email I sent to the Hessequa Municipality on the 4th December 2023 after the JRA received the results of the referendum on the Strand St One Way street concept:

- “1. Twenty One (21) owners replied to the emails sent out by your Department;*
- 2. Fourteen (14) owners opposed the JIV application to have Strand St redesignated as a One-Way;*
- 3. This is a strong majority (67%) and the JIV has no choice but to accept the decision;*
- 4. Notwithstanding 3. above, the JIV remains of the opinion that the chaotic conditions prevailing on Strand St during the Festive seasons seriously compromise the safety of pedestrians and particularly children;*
- 5. Accordingly, the JIV respectfully requests that the Hessequa Traffic Department are tasked to undertake a comprehensive survey of the traffic/pedestrian conditions prevailing in Strand St during the forthcoming Festive season and provide the Municipality and the JIV with a written report including safety recommendations should they deem these to be necessary.”*

The content is self explanatory and I have not yet had a reply.

In conclusion I wish to thank all members who have paid their annual fees and kindly request those who haven't to please do so. The amount remains R900 for 2023/4.

Sincere thanks to Denise Barnes and her gardener as well as Peter Protoulis who spent 4 days planting and laying irrigation on the whole northern side of the new swemgat parking area.

More thanks to Christo Cronje and his boys for sourcing the lanterns. We all went through a stressful period when it seemed we would have to cancel the Lanternloop this year!



A huge thank you to Louis Stander and his team of workers that oversee the rebuild of the two lapa's at the swemgat.

Finally, a cooking pot full of thanks to Antoinette van Zyl, Rilda Saayman, Rikus Fick, Corne van Wyk and Drienie du Plessis who managed to steam 150kg of Skaapstertjies for braaing at the Kersmark.

**Kind regards,
John.**

PS: We desperately need helpers for Pannekoek bak at the Kersmark Thursday 21 December.