Newsletter 2 of 2026
Jongensfontein Residents Association (JRA)

INTRODUCTION

1. Since the previous newsletter was formulated in Afrikaans, this second newsletter of 2026 will be presented in the best English we can muster. This newsletter 2 of 2026 as well as our first newsletter 1 of 2026 will also be available on the JIV website at www.jivjongens.com.

2. The JRA management committee had an exceedingly active year up to now and our volunteer management committee members have expended many hours, days, weeks and months in our efforts to comply with our mandate to maintain and improve facilities in our town and to make our town exceptional. Working together with our loyal and enthusiastic JRA members, our goal is to make Jongensfontein the safest, the neatest, the best maintained and the most beautiful coastal town in Africa. Some of the JRA activities, aimed at making our town enjoyable, well-functioning and attractive tor residents and visitors alike, are dealt with below.

INVOLVEMENT OF RESIDENTS

3. One of the JRA's main functions is to facilitate the involvement of local residents in efforts to enhance our town and its facilities beyond the level of basic services which the municipality can provide, thereby making our town exceptional and unique. In this way our small community avoids becoming negative passive complainers, but take responsibility for our own environment, during a time in our national history when many small towns in our country are falling into a state of decay and neglect. The JRA invites and welcomes the active involvement of residents in our activities. A Residents Association is a reflection of the local community spirit and can only achieve its purpose with the support and active involvement of its members.

4. The yearly contributions of our members in the form of membership fees are the lifeline of your association. New accounts for 2027 will be forwarded after the end of the financial year by end of September 2026. The membership fee will not be adjusted and will remain stable at R75 per month or R900 per year. The JRA is grateful to our loyal residents who continue to support the JRA financially, which enables your Association to make a real and substantial impact in order to make our town exceptional and to advance the interests of Jongensfontein with the Hessequa Municipality. Existing members are requested to encourage our fellow residents who are not yet contributing to the JRA to also join the JRA, as all residents are benefiting from the efforts of the JRA. Non-members and new residents who are willing to contribute their modest share and participate in the fun, are invited to contact our executive administrative officer, Celente Ellis, at 082 780 0579.

5. Since public funds are collected by the JRA in the form of membership fees, proper financial and administrative controls are essential. This requirement of proper control results in unavoidable overhead administrative and accounting costs. Care must be taken, however, that the JRA does not become a duplicate bureaucracy where membership fees are not

utilized to improve or maintain our town but merely to fund yet another self-created bureaucracy, which is not sustainable. The focus of the JRA is to achieve a situation where overhead administrative costs are largely covered by self-generated funds and the bulk of membership fees are applied in a decentralized manner to *inter alia* involve as many volunteer residents as possible in JRA management and activities. Thus, the aim is that membership fees are mainly utilized for actual maintenance and improvements in our town; as modest, decentralized honoraria to volunteer management committee members and volunteer residents who expend time, costs and efforts to assist the JRA to achieve its maintenance and improvement goals; and as reasonable payment to JRA contractors for specific projects. Whilst this has by and large been achieved, it is always work in progress that requires constant vigilance.

6. The JRA's onerous and time consuming administrative and accounting duties are performed, virtually on a full time basis, by our executive administrative officer, Celente Ellis, in addition to being very actively involved in most of our projects. The good news regarding the monthly administrative and accounting expense is that it is virtually entirely self-funded by JRA activities, such as the bi-annual markets and pancake sales, of which Celente is the main organizer, without ever losing her poise and good humor. Additional positive news is the negotiation and conclusion of a contract with Hessequa Municipality, renewable over three years, for *inter alia* curatorship duties in respect of the museum, thereby securing a yearly contribution by Hessequa Municipality to the JRA of R26,000, which further reduces overhead costs.

7. In order to broaden our membership and encourage continued involvement, the Management Committee has decided to make it possible for our senior citizens over 80 to apply for a reduced membership rate of R25 per month or R300 per year. All who qualify for the reduced rate and who want to make use thereof is requested to contact our executive administrative officer, Celente Ellis, at 082 780 0579, who will upon request adjust the membership records accordingly. All paying members are added to the JRA WhatsApp group, where information, news and photos about activities of your Association are regularly shared.

SOCIAL MEDIA

8. The JRA attempts to regularly post photos, news and information of the JRA activities and projects on the JIV and the Klets WhatsApp groups, not to be in the limelight, but to keep our members abreast of the manner in which their membership fees are being applied to enhance and maintain our town and further to sustain our vibrant community spirit during the out-of-season absence of many of our members. Our purpose is further to inform non-member residents of our activities and to encourage them to join our friendly community of actively involved members. Whilst social media fulfills a useful role, it readily lends itself to faceless abuses by a small minority in the form of gossip, toxic campaigns, rapid spreading of negativity and falsehoods, etc. Our members and residents are requested to utilize social media with circumspection, in good faith and in such a manner that it is not harmful to our cohesive community spirit. Rather use your time beneficially to lend a helping hand!

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

9. Apart from physical projects and maintenance work, liaison with the Hessequa municipality is a major function of the JRA. The purpose of the JRA is not to take over services which should be provided by the municipality. To the contrary, the JRA maintains an excellent working relationship with the able and committed Hessequa Municipality, which ensures that the voice of our community is heard and not overlooked; that our community receives the standard of services we are entitled to expect as rate payers; and that our town receives its fair share of the yearly budget allocation.

10. As far as expenditure by Hessequa Municipality on infrastructure in our town is concerned, a major development is the approval by the council of a dedicated power line to Jongensfontein, with a projected capital expense of R30 million. This issue is further dealt with below. In addition, the JRA has been informed that the major R9 million project for the construction of a third water reservoir has commenced, following delays caused by problems with the previous tender procedure. The projection is that the reservoir may be completed over a six month construction period, which should address the chronically low levels of potable water during peak periods. The installation of gabions to protect the eye of our fountain will also commence within the next week. The municipality has also indicated that the last portion of gravel road in our town adjacent to residences, being the gravel road running past the tennis courts leading to the sewerage dams, should be provided with a sealed surface before the end of the year (dry weather conditions permitting), in order to address the severe dust problem experienced by adjacent residents. Whilst the resurfacing of the one tennis court has already been completed, with essential support work around the tennis court being attended to by our active Nature Reserve Group, the resurfacing of the second tennis court and the replacement of the rusted fence around the tennis court are also on the works agenda before the end of the year. A small number of low light shafts (3-4 shafts, with a height of approximately one meter each, similar to the 16 low light shafts installed in Strand Street) with movement sensors, will be installed on the Betelgeuse coastal pathway between the museum and Bieto-avenue, to alleviate the risk of injury or unwelcome encounters with our local puff adders, by the many children and other users of this walkway after dark.

11. A list of other future capital expenditure projects for Jongensfontein has been submitted during April 2026 by the JRA to the Hessequa Municipality for the supplementary 2026/2027 budget, ranging from the construction of the dedicated power line and a bicycle path between Still Bay and Jongensfontein to phased-in construction of a water borne sewerage system, storm water management and traffic calming measures. An updated schedule will again be submitted before end of October 2026, for the 2027/2028 capital and operational budget. JRA members and residents who wish to make proposals in this regard are invited to contact the JRA management.

JRA ACTIVITIES

12. The year commenced on an acute note due to the heavy infestation of red bait at our main beach and elsewhere along the coastline during January. Following a series of discussions, the JRA eventually reached a compromise with the Municipality, in terms whereof the JRA collected the red bait in bags and moved the bags to a central point for collection by the Municipality. The result was that over a period of some 3 weeks all able bodied men in the town were called upon for active service to remove red bait on a regular basis. More than

1000 heavy bags of red bait were removed from the main beach area, which rendered the main beach relatively accessible during the heavy infestation and kept the odor under control.

13. Another crisis was to follow soon thereafter in February/March 2026, when our power line to Jongens was damaged by inclement weather and continuous power failures over a period of more than a week were experienced, much to the dismay and even panic of some of our permanent residents. As an emergency arrangement, the JRA made use of the services which were offered free of charge by JRA-member Albert Monk and his son Ian, to implement an immediate notification system of all general power failures on the JRA WA group. This system assisted residents to manage the power crisis and to reduce the confusion and the exaggerated sense of disaster caused by various warning notices from different sources. Thank you Albert Monk and Ian Monk for your contribution in a time of crisis. The crux of the problem is that the Escom power line to Jongens is chronically overloaded, especially during peak seasons. The JRA arranged two town meetings with senior representatives of Hessequa Municipality to jointly discuss possible solutions to the unsatisfactory situation. With the unwavering support of Speaker Tinus vd Berg, our ward 3 representative at Hessequa Municipal Council, the municipality agreed to plan, budget and construct a dedicated power line for Jongens, with a projected budget of R30 million. The proposed power line will be operated by the Hessequa Municipality and not by Escom, preferably in the road reserve, subject to formal consent from the provincial Roads Department. Hessequa Municipal Council warrants our appreciation for their willingness to allocate substantial capital expenditures to Jongensfontein's infrastructure. The JRA, with the steadfast support of Speaker Tinus, regularly follows up on the progress with the planning of and budgeting for the power line. The JRA has been assured that the initial design of the dedicated power line had been completed and that progress is on track for completion of environmental impact assessments and construction within the next two to three years.

14. Whilst the power supply was relatively stable during the remainder of the year, power fluctuations of short duration on the Escom line are still being experienced from time to time. As this issue is exclusively under the control of Escom, it appears that residents will have to grin and bear these fluctuations of shorter duration for the time being. The JRA has been assured by the Stilbaai Electrical Department that Escom is aware of the fluctuation issue, which is also occurring in Stilbaai, and is currently monitoring the lines in an attempt to determine the cause thereof.

15. The planning of the dedicated power line within the Jongensfontein–Stilbaai road reserve entails construction of an obligatory maintenance road adjacent to the main tar road. This creates, in the opinion of the JRA, an opportunity to construct a road which can also serve as a save mountain bicycle and running/walking pathway, on a compacted crusher dust surface, if the necessary planning is done upfront. The JRA has been liaising and arranging meetings to drum up support for this proposal with several interest groups in Still Bay, as the dream of a safe cycling/running path will not only be of benefit to Jongensfontein residents but will be of equal value to Stilbaai residents and visitors as well. The Still Bay Community Forum, the Still Bay Business Forum and the Still Bay Tourism Bureau have all expressed full support for the proposal. A meeting between all these interest groups with senior Hessequa officials, at the request of the JRA and facilitated by Speaker Tinus, rendered a very encouraging outcome and a commitment from Hessequa senior officials to do all in their

power to achieve a positive outcome in this regard. The JRA will continue to promote this promising and important issue on a regular basis.

16. The Easter market presented by the JRA on the main beach area in April was once again a resounding success, with some 120 exhibitors participating. The market was presented on leafy green lawns, despite the lawn's challenging position directly adjacent to the beach, thanks to the continuous care and attention expended by Div Theunissen throughout the year on the lawn and the irrigation system. The JRA pancake-stall was again very popular and an income in excess of R20,000 was generated by pancakes sales. Many thanks to the many people who merrily participated in, assisted with and supported the Easter market. The two JRA markets each year (being the Easter market and the Christmas market) are by now traditional events of long standing, which are not only opportunities to showcase our town and its amenities to many visitors, but also events which promote friendly socializing and a community spirit, whilst creating opportunities for local and external entrepreneurs to market their products. The 2026 Christmas market is planned for Saturday, 19 December 2026, with the maximum number of 125 stalls already fully booked.

17. In light of the high popularity of the picnic and braai area at the Western tidal pool, amongst both residents and visitors, the lawn area and irrigation system at the tidal pool were extended by the JRA, in order to reduce congestion during peak seasons. Another parks project during the course of the year was the extension of the irrigation system and lawn mowing schedule to the area behind Seesig apartments, due to complaints by residents about devil thorns and weeds taking over that area of the park.

18. Improvement and enhanced maintenance of public parks and pathways remain a major function of your Association. Following the extensive renovation and improvements to 6 of our public parks, at the Boegspriet turn-off, the braai area at the sandy beach in the east, the large town square park adjacent to Seesig apartments, the whale viewpoint park in Hoof street, the extensive lawns at the main beach area and the park at the western tidal pool, the focus has shifted to establishing an efficient maintenance system in respect of the parks. This involves *inter alia* maintenance of the irrigation system, controlling unpleasant devil thorns, regular mowing by JRA members and JRA contractors and weed control and fertilizing as required, to maintain our parks in a respectable condition which can be the pride and joy of our community. Whilst executive committee members Div Theunissen and Mathys Streicher perform tirelessly, the task is too extensive to be executed by JRA management committee members on their own. The neat condition of our parks is also made possible by the voluntary involvement of our residents at dedicated areas. Boegspriet park at the entrance to Jongens has been transformed by Naas Palmer into a striking mini-botanical garden with more than 40 botanical name plates and with 14 trees under drip irrigation, to form a welcoming lane in the future at the entrance to our town; the area around the milk wood trees in the town square park adjacent to Seesig apartments, with its attractive Clivia (bush lily) and Gazania flower beds, are attended to by Dirk and Henda Maree; regular mowing of the extensive town square lawn area, the area behind Seesig apartments and the large park in Seebries Avenue is attended to by Mathys Streicher with his John Deerkie; the lawn area at the Sandy beach braai area as well as the extensive lawns at the main beach area, with 5 irrigation lines, are maintained by Div Theunissen; the steadily developing tidal pool park is attended to by Denise Barnes and the picturesque whale viewpoint park in Hoof street by Albert Monk. The JRA salute these residents for their community spirit, their tireless

efforts and their never-ending enthusiasm to maintain and further develop our public areas to make our town exceptional.

19. It was apparent that, in the interest of efficiency and given the extensive nature of the duties to be performed by the JRA's estate manager/factotum, that he would have to be an energetic independent contractor with a driving license. A duty sheet consisting of more than 30 activities spread throughout the town, have been prepared, to guide the estate manager in the performance of his duties. The duty sheet includes weekly clearing of the 11 braai plinths and braai areas, which stretches from the east to the west along the coast line, attending to general garden work in the various parks, carrying out walkway maintenance, maintaining all JRA irrigation heads (currently more than 80) in the various parks, cleaning the JIV bakkie, removing large items of rubble and debris from the beaches, etc. These duties are diligently performed by Mr Ricardo Michaels every Friday, whose cheerful demeanor, efficiency and commitment to our town's maintenance is commendable and deserve our appreciation.

20. The biggest highlight of the year was the stone cladding of two of our public ablution blocks at the coastline, one at the sand beach in the east and the larger one at the tidal pool in the west, made possible by the generous sponsorship of two loyal and energetic JRA members. In the interest of creating a uniform theme, the braai plinths (one in the east and three in the west) adjacent to the ablutions blocks were also cladded in natural local stone, to create a uniform theme. Our unstinting benefactors have also sponsored the recent stone cladding of the coastal braai plinths south of Daytona Avenue, thereby not only strengthening the edifices but also continuing with the natural local stone cladding of structures in our public areas, which contributes to an exceptionally attractive continuous theme of local natural stone cladding in our town. Many of the private residences and perimeter or garden walls in Jongens also reflect the application of natural local stone cladding, which not only pays tribute to the cultural history of our area, but renders our town unique and exceptional. The JRA encourages residents to promote the theme of natural local stone cladding as a distinctive feature of our town. The proposed low stone wall in Strand Street, as part of the maintenance plan and renovation of the existing promenade, will further enhance the uniform local natural stone theme in our town. The stone cladding project of the ablutions and braai plinths stands as a monument reflecting how exceptional the outcome can be when our community stands together and take responsibility to improve our town.

21. As part of the ablutions project, the JRA also renovated the interiors of the east and west ablution blocks. We are indebted to Celente Ellis and Div Theunissen who worked tirelessly for several weeks to transform the interior of the east and west ablution facilities in a creative fashion.

22. The 5 remaining braai plinths along the coast were also structurally renovated, repainted and provided with neat new frames by Div Theunissen. Whilst the public facilities are open to the public and are not exclusively for use by our residents, it is in the majority of instances our residents and their visitors who make use thereof. Our facilities reflect the friendly and welcoming nature of our community, also in respect of visitors, and the pride our residents take in our town.

23. Snapscan boards inviting voluntary contributions to JRA projects and to the Nature Reserve group have been installed in various areas in the town and at the nature reserve. Many thanks

to Ralph Rudd and Gerald Gaigher for spearheading the project, Celente Ellis for attending to the many banking formalities and Div Theunissen for installing the boards in various areas.

24. The JRA Garden Group under leadership of Zita Muller, Hannnetjie Edeling and Caj van Zyl have met on Friday, 25 September 2026 to plan for the promotion of endemic and indigenous plants in our public spaces, to investigate the possibility of establishing a small town orchard behind Seesig apartments and to consider further improvements to our public areas. The Lunsklip Protea nursery was visited, where specimens of our local pincushion leucospermum praecox were in full bloom. JRA members who are interested to become involved in the Garden Group's activities are invited to contact Lukas at 083 228 0102.

25. Sonja Snyman conscientiously performed her reporting duties on the JRA helpline in respect of power failures (longer than 10 minutes) and water bursts. Our neighborhood watch group under watchful management of Henry Mathysser and Bertus Swanepoel have performed their patrols vigilantly during 2026. Many thanks to the management and all the faithful patrollers who keep us safe and secure. With the proceeds from the *liggieloop* project on 31 December 2026, made possible by the generous donation and support of Roelof van den Berg, the neighborhood watch was able to install additional security cameras in various areas in our town, which will further enhance the levels of safety and security in our town. There is always a need for more volunteers, as the greater the number of volunteers, the less onerous the patrolling duties become. The yearly *liggieloop* project will this year again be presented on the last day of the year under the auspices of the neighborhood watch and Roelof and Vicky van den Berg, with Henry Matthyser having volunteered this year to accept management responsibility for the *liggieloop* project until the final minutes of the year run out. Bertus Swanepoel is again arranging the popular street mile event in Jongensfontein on 27 December 2026 from 09h00-11h00. The Nature Reserve group under management of Ralph Rudd is continuing with their sterling work to improve and maintain our Nature Reserve, with the full support of the JRA where ever possible. Many thanks to all for your community spirit and active involvement.

MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION OF EXISTING STRAND STREET PROMENADE

26. More time and effort have been expended on the proposals for the maintenance and renovation of the existing Strand street promenade. Further consultations with Strand street owners have confirmed the need and support for a level pedestrian pathway along the coastal road in order to remove pedestrians from the road surface; the replacement of the dilapidated and increasingly untidy stone gabions in the curve of the bay; a low natural stone wall (not more than 500mm in height) alongside the road surface, where feasible, to separate the pedestrian walkway from the road and to serve as a secondary sea wall, whilst retaining the seamless transition between the coastal area and the ocean; and lastly for the restoration of the existing sea wall to a height that is not higher than the adjacent road surface of Strand Street.

27. A proposal reflecting the above stated requirements has been prepared free of charge by Marco Olivier, who is also a Strand Street home owner. The proposal was circulated on the JRA WhatsApp group as well as the Klets WhatsApp group and informal discussions were held with a number of Strand Street owners. Whilst consultations are still continuing, the proposals were met with general approval amongst the Strand Street owners who were

consulted. There was one written objection, *inter alia* on the grounds that the JRA is allegedly reckless and does not comply with environmental assessment requirements, which is incorrect. All environmental assessment requirements imposed by the authorities will be strictly adhered to. Permission will also be sought to replenish the sandy beach in the curve of the bay, which has been damaged by the tidal flood of 2023.

28. The next step is to obtain approval from the Hessequa municipality for the project in principle, where after a more detailed draft design, taking actual site conditions into account, can be prepared. One of our generous JRA members has already undertaken financial support for this component of the project. Thereafter comprehensive formal public participation procedures will be followed, providing extensive opportunity for our residents to submit comments and objections, if any. The final detail design proposals will then be subjected to an environmental impact assessment as required by the authorities, which entails a further opportunity for public participation. The main aim will be to retain the natural character of our existing promenade, whilst sternly protecting the seamless transition to the ocean and the natural simplicity of the coastal area.

CONCLUSION

29. The annual general meeting of the JRA is planned for Thursday, 17 December 2026 at Privilistea at 09h00. All 2026 paid up JRA members have voting rights until end of 2026 and are invited to attend. All attending will be invited for an informal social and a *worsbraai* after the conclusion of the meeting, as a token of your association's appreciation for your goodwill and steadfast support. Last but not least, the JRA is indebted to Executive Committee members Mathys Streicher, Celente Ellis, Div Theunissen and Wim van Rooyen, for their unwavering support for and selfless contributions to our town and to the JRA projects throughout the year. Without their indefatigable efforts none of the above would have been achievable.

30. The year is fast-moving to its end and the JRA is looking forward to welcoming our absentee-members and their families in our midst during the December peak season. We wish all a safe and enjoyable journey to the coast.

Lukas vd Merwe
JRA Chairperson
Sept 2026.

"Where envy rules virtue can't survive, and where meanness is king there isn't any room for generosity." – Sancho Panza in The Ingenious Hidalgo DON QUIXOTE de la Mancha, by Miguel De Cervantes Saavedra (first published 1604-1605).