

Zwaanswyk Association of Property Owners (ZAPO)



P.O. Box 31101, Tokai, 7966

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2016

The Board of Directors of the non-profit Company, which manages the Zwaanswyk SRA, for the 2016 year were;

	Portfolio
Norah De Wet	Finance
Pam Gorre	Environment
Lyndi du Plessis	Communications
Eric Jansen	Fence and Security
Andrew Glendinning	Finance
John Green	Baboon Liaison
Nick Harris	Finance and Company Secretary
Philip Lambrecht	Chairman, Fence and Security

We are very privileged to have Andrew Glendinning join the board this year. Andrew is a CA and has taken over the finance portfolio from Nick Harris. Board meetings have been held at least two months or as needed. Thanks also to Eric Jansen who has joined to share the load of the fence.

REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF EACH PORTFOLIO

Again it has been a busy year for the board of the SRA with the trees coming down on the fence the extensions of the fence down past Debaren Close all successfully completed. Updated budgets and implementation plans for the 2017 year have also been submitted to the City. A short summary of the responsibility of the board of the SRA is:

- To establish and ensure sound corporate governance and compliance of a non-profit management company
- To maintain the baboon deterrent fence erected along the perimeter of the SRA area with the Tokai plantation area
- To maintain the strip of land adjacent to the fence, road verges and storm water using labour from nearby communities.
- To appoint and monitor a common area security service provider who would monitor the fence, the CCTV cameras and provide common area guarding and surveillance
- To appoint a part time manager
- To communicate with members via a website and newsletters

1. FINANCE

Andrew Glendinning will present this as a separate item. The Annual Financial Statement and explanatory document are being circulated to members.

2. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Board Meetings

The Board met 8 times during the financial year to 30th June.

Attendance at the meetings was as follows;

19 th Aug 2015	-	All except RT including Penny East
27 th Oct 2015	-	All except RT
26 th Nov 2015	-	All except JG and NdW - apologies Penny East
4 th Feb 2016	-	All
12 th Apr 2016	-	All except NH, AG - apologies Penny East
7 th June 2016	-	All including Robbie Taylor

The directors of the company are all registered with CIPC in terms of the Companies Act.

Board Members

I would like to thank all of the board members who have given up their personal time to contribute towards an efficient running of the SRA. John Green and Pam Gore have been on the board for many years and are happy to continue serving on the board. Nick Harris has once again made a huge impact in all areas and it is with much sadness that we saying goodbye to him as a board member. Nick has finally decided to step down. The good news is that he has agreed to be the company secretary for the next year. Thanks also to Lyndi du Plessis who handles the communication portfolio and works tirelessly behind the scenes. Lastly but by no means least, thanks to Norah de Wet who does all the monthly payments and looks after the bank accounts.

New Members

We welcome our new members:

[B. Cukjati](#)

[V. Lietner](#)

[A. Rae](#)

[R. Taylor](#)

Councillor Penny East is the political representative appointed by the Mayor of the City of Cape Town and has attended 1 of the board meetings.

The Company has been issued a valid Tax Clearance certificate. Monthly income and expenditure reports are submitted to the City Council which show the actual expenditure compared with the approved budget.

The Company submits VAT returns every two months. The financial consultant Des Brown checks the submissions on a regular basis.

3. FENCE

I am pleased to report that the fence is still in very good condition with on-going upgrades and maintenance being regularly performed. It unfortunately suffered some substantial damage in April when some of the dead trees in SANParks were blown over in a north wester. This was after letters had been written to the relevant parties informing them of the danger. Part of the cost of the repair was reimbursed by the insurance and we are still awaiting payment from the City of Cape Town for the tree damage at the lower reservoir.

The new fence section of electrified fence erected from the Van Der Wielen property down to Stillness Manor at Debaren and then another 150m further down the fence has been successful in preventing raids from within Steenberg.

Of late we have been subject to single baboon incursions and we are continually making changes to the fence in an attempt to prevent these raids.

On a weekly basis Amos has been dealing with the continual soil erosion and porcupine furrows along the fence and David Geldenhuys does the monthly clearing and 4 monthly spraying of weed killer to maintain a clear strip on either side of the fence. Both of these subcontractors are appointed from the local community.

4. SECURITY

We are extremely fortunate to live in a community where there has only been ONE break-in in the last 2 years. The security agreement with Premier has another year to run until July 2017. They have performed very well again, often going the extra mile to ensure we live in a crime free environment. We are in continual communication with Premier trying to improve the security and stay one step ahead.

Premier Security control room number is 021 701-9955

The SRA board still urges property owners to be vigilant and ensure their alarms are set when they are out.

4. ENVIRONMENT

John Green has compiled this excellent report below:

The Zwaanswyk SRA baboon and security fence, designed and managed by ZAPO, is acknowledged by the authorities' Baboon Technical Team (BTT), animal welfare groups (SPCA and PAWS), and UCT's Baboon Research Unit (BRU) as being the prototype for effective human/ baboon conflict management on the Cape Peninsula.

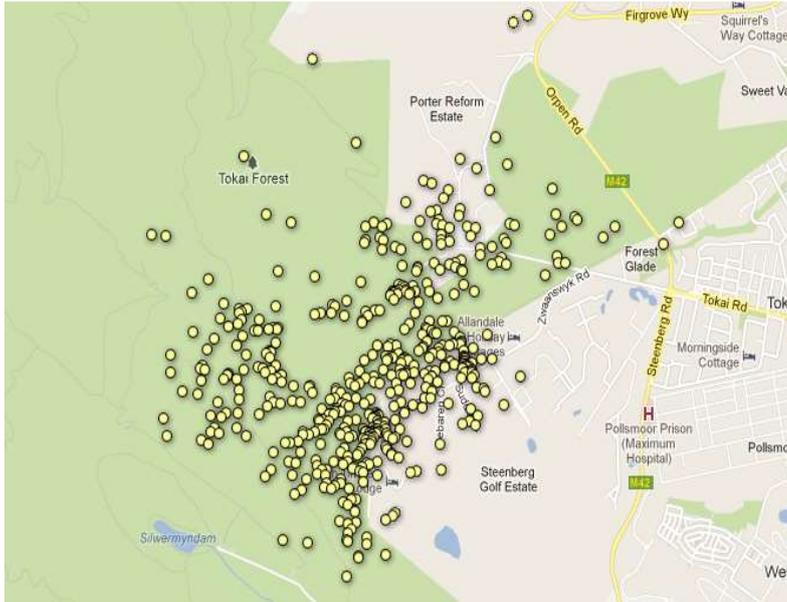
The BTT and BRU are using the precedent of the Zwaanswyk baboon fence in presentations to other baboon affected communities and cite "*The Zwaanswyk Success Story*" as the best baboon management tool available for the following reasons (courtesy of Prof Justin O'Riain of the BRU):

- Does not disturb wildlife, domestic animals nor residents
- Improved baboon conservation and welfare status
- Significantly reduces damage to property and trauma to residents and domestic animals
- Improved security and probably property prices
- Negates need to baboon- proof individual properties/ gardens/houses
- Significantly improves the life styles of residents
- Reduces the significant long term management cost per baboon and
- Raiding can be reduced to 0%

The satellite pictures below (courtesy Bentley Kaplan's PhD Thesis) graphically illustrate the distribution of the 100 plus baboons in the Tokai Main and Zwaanswyk troops before and after the erection of the Zwaanswyk fence in 2012.

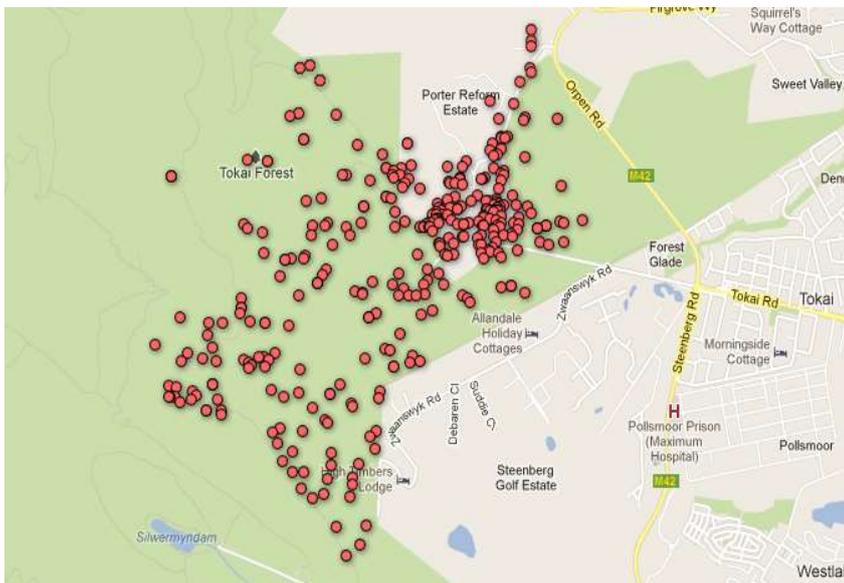
It can be clearly seen that, mainly the Zwaanswyk troop (regular abetted by the Tokai Main troop), was totally habituated to obtaining human derived food from rich pickings in the Zwaanswyk residents' properties. Normal life in Zwaanswyk was almost unbearable, residents lived like prisoners in their own homes and domestic animals were also traumatised and regularly severely injured in conflict with baboons. It can be seen that other residential areas such as Forest Glade, Lower Tokai, Firgrove and even the Steenberg Golf Estate were regularly raided by baboons.

By early 2012, the team of 8 'monitors' employed by the City's then baboon management agency (NCC) was fighting a losing battle in their efforts to manage baboon incursions into Zwaanswyk from the pine plantations and invasive alien infested areas of the abutting Tokai TMNP plantations and Porter Estate. The baboon population was increasing exponentially as a result of the extra nutrition provided by human derived foods and was almost totally habituated to the urban area.



Immediately after the erection of the fence, baboon troop incursions into Zwaanswyk ceased completely. Individual raiders exploited weak points in the fence perimeter which were rapidly mitigated by the constant vigilance and effective management of the ZAPO Board, and occasional raids by single baboons have become the exception rather than the rule.

The barrier of the fence permitted the new HWS baboon rangers to concentrate on keeping both the baboon troops (and individual raiding males) from raiding into other residential areas such as Forest Glade and lower Tokai and Firgrove, which has resulted in this area now being virtually free of residential baboon raids, There are also early indications that the baboon population growth is normalising as the baboons are deprived of human derived foods and are forced into foraging for natural foods.



The devastating March 2015 fires virtually destroyed all the baboons' traditional foraging habitat and sleeping sites in the Tokai plantations. Without vigilant management of the Zwaanswyk fence, including an extension on the southern Steenberg vineyards boundary and rapid repairs to the fire damage, there is no doubt that the baboon management challenge would have been significantly exacerbated. Instead, the effective barrier of the well managed Zwaanswyk fence has contributed significantly to both baboon troops foraging high into the Silvermine area and even roosting there.

This summer, despite the drought and fires, the baboons have adapted to the fynbos foraging on the Constantiaberg and Silvermine and are experiencing much more natural life styles not being harassed by, or harassing, humans.

We have to conclude that the Zwaanswyk SRA has undoubtedly been a great success, both to the residents of Zwaanswyk and the surrounding areas and to the baboons. It has also materially contributed to the image and financial sustainability of the City in the field of 'problem animal' conflict.

6. PART TIME MANAGER

Helen Burdett is a very important part of ZAPO and continues to attend to the book keeping, administration and managerial responsibilities of the SRA. Helen attends all the board meetings and manages the bulk communications to the members.

Helen can be contacted at info@zapo.co.za

7. COMMUNICATION

Lyndi Du Plessis has reported as follows:

Website

Our new ZAPO website: www.zapo.co.za went live in September. Designed by Zwaanswyk resident Scott Hallauer who is a computer science student, the web-site features information relating to the way ZAPO functions and includes a wealth of interesting information on our fence and security, wildlife and environment, as well as holds all financial documents, budgets and minutes of AGM and board meetings. There are also quick links to emergency numbers – fire, baboons, Premier Security as well as plenty of useful information, such as about how to report a crime and who to contact if the fence is not working.

Emergency Contact

Premier Security has a contact number for each household which is used to alert all residents to any security threats or break-ins. This is a bulk sms system and a free service. All new residents should ensure that they have provided a contact number for their household to Premier to be used in emergencies.

New Members

ZAPO manager, Helen Burdett, identifies new residents to Zwaanswyk and sends a welcome pack to Zwaanswyk and membership forms to join ZAPO.

ZAPO corresponds with members via email. If there are residents who do not receive any emails from ZAPO and would like to be put on the mailing list, please contact info@zapo.co.za

Implementation Plan for 2017

ZAPO will continue to keep members informed of the important issues that affect residents that are in our remit: fence, security and wildlife /environmental issues via emails and websites and existing social media platforms. The "Village Chatter" Whatsapp group and Zwaanswyk Community Facebook have been set up organically by residents but ZAPO also utilises these social media platforms to communicate although it is recognised that not all members utilise these media.

PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU WISH TO BELONG TO ANY OF THESE GROUPS: AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, ADVISE IF YOUR EMAILS FROM ZAPO ARE NOT COMING TO YOU. WITHOUT THIS, WE CANNOT COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY.

8. GENERAL

Pam Gore continues to represent our community on the Tokai Rate Payers Association and keeps us updated on any pressing issues.

Once again I would like to thank the board members for dedication and commitment to the smooth running of the SRA.

Best Wishes

Philip Lambrecht
Chairman