20 May 2015

Dear MD Accountants,

We are writing to thank MD Accountants for helping us through the devastating fires that recently blazed around Cape Town and Stellenbosch during the first few weeks of March – the toughest two weeks in many of our lives.

Fighting the back-to-back fires of Cape Town and then Stellenbosch has been overwhelming for us in many respects – both as a volunteer wildfire firefighting unit and as a community, and every act of kindness shown towards us has not gone unnoticed and we want to share our immense gratitude with you.

The R 1000.00 that MD Accountants so generously donated to Volunteer Wildfire Service ensures that all our volunteers who assisted with the recent fires could approach their duties with peace of mind, knowing that you were looking after them. I cannot stress enough the importance of your contribution to the VWS.

As you may know, all members of the VWS are unpaid volunteers, who offer their free time outside of their day jobs to train for six months a year, carry out standby duties, offer logistical support and fight wildfires during the fire season. We rely entirely on donations to maintain our vehicles, fill them with fuel, feed our hungry firefighters, train them during winter and buy them the equipment they need (firefighting tools, radios, protective clothing etc.) to put the fires out. More often than not, this is done out of the public eye.

This past fire season has been one of the busiest we have ever faced as a unit, and we have assisted Table Mountain National Park and CapeNature at over 45 fires since the season began in November 2014.

To receive your donation and moral support at this difficult time has provided enormous relief to our over-stretched resources, and will help to sustain the three bases (Newlands, Jonkershoek and South Peninsula) and the work of all the volunteers who make up the VWS today. Without your help, we simply wouldn't be able to continue fighting wildfires in the Cape and Boland regions.

We are proud to be a part of a community that shows the spirit you have shared with us, and we thank you again for your support. It is our honour to serve you.

Kind regards,

Julie Gardiner, VWS Finance Director





