

Chairperson's Report: Shiralee Moore

This has been a year of transition for the WRRR Executive Committee, starting with the departure in early 2019 of two of our experienced and valued members Donald Goldfain, Chairman, and Neville Ewing, Treasurer, WIP and Vice Chairman. Subsequent to this a number of changes took place within the committee including new members joining, existing members stepping up into vacant portfolios and restructuring some of the member responsibilities during the course of the year. We thank all of our former committee members for their contributions during 2019, including those who have stepped down or taken on a part time role.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the contributions of the Executive Committee Team members during 2019 so that WRRR members are given feedback about the activities and achievements of the year. It is then intended that the presentation to be given at the AGM will primarily focus on the aims and objectives of the committee for 2020.

Safety and Security: Ian Willis

We are all aware of the series of crimes that have impacted on residents and visitors to Wilderness and our outlying areas during 2019. The Safety and Security portfolio was initiated some years ago as a point of communication and liaison between the WRRR and SAPS, however during the course of this year Ian's experience as a former policeman has enabled him to further engage with the community and municipality to provide a proactive approach to crime prevention.

Facebook:

Ian has established an online presence through two Facebook pages - Wilderness Crime Response where he posts monthly crime reports, and Wilderness Crime Surveillance where membership has grown from 250 members to 700+ members as a result of his posts.

WhatsApp Beach Alert Group:

This group stretches from Kleinkrantz to Sands Road and was created across traditional neighbourhoods by canvassing new members near access/choke points leading onto the beach.

Cameras and lighting:

- Ian has worked with the Wilderness Hotel in getting lights to improve safety in the dark area on George Road; cameras are also to be installed there.
- He has approached guesthouses with a view to them installing cameras facing the beach and if this is successful, there will eventually be cameras extending from De Duin to as far as 65 Sands Road.
- The guesthouse opposite the Caltex tunnel has been approached with a view to fixing the camera. In the meantime, with the assistance of Councillor Marlene Barnardt, a trail camera has been secured to cover the area.
- Ian has approached Eatz to Go with a view to providing a camera facing the Caltex tunnel across from the take-away.

- An assessment of the village has been completed and provided to Councillor Marlene Barnardt and Joan Shaw from George Tourism with quotes relating to pricing and positioning of cameras. These would cover the walkway near Dolphins Point, the railway tunnel near the cave, and will close all choke points near the two tunnels leading from the village to the beach.

WRRRA Fire Forum: Andre Hacquebord

The WRRRA Fire Forum, a portfolio arm of the WRRRA, was launched at a very successful talk in August at the Wilderness Hotel with a turnout of approximately 300 people. With his demonstrable passion, Andre, with the assistance of Dave Hill and a large number of volunteers from the local community, has managed to put the WRRRA Fire Forum 'on the map' with residents, the municipality and other interested parties.

The aim of the Fire Forum is to be a representative body for the 7 Fire Management Units (FMUs) in the Greater Wilderness Area: Wilderness Central, Rondevlei, Wilderness Heights, Langvlei Dunes, Wilderness Lakes, Diep Rivier and Hoekwil.

The vision of the WRRRA Fire Forum is to build a fire resilient and prepared community within the Greater Wilderness Area with the main aims being:

- Awareness campaigns on fire prevention and fire risk
- Liaison with formal bodies
- Education in alien vegetation risks and removals
- Creating an effective communication system within the FMUs
- Acquiring strike units and equipment and to train volunteer groups for first response and assistance in fires
- To be recognised as an important link between the community, Disaster Management and formal Fire Departments
- Update and maintain a common mapping system
- Integration into the Reserve Fire Fighting unit
- Create a community involvement and spirit in knowledge and prevention of fires

Development Diligence/Public Talks/Wilderness Heights: John Miller

John's portfolio is wide ranging and he deals with all his areas of responsibility with a committed and conscientious approach. His knowledge and experience enable him to provide insightful contributions, beneficial to the committee and residents.

Development Diligence:

This involves frequent correspondence and meetings with the Municipality on several issues including lack of monitoring and enforcement of its regulations; the lack of follow-up on specific planning

issues; OSCA and other environmental issues; construction activity after hours; servitudes, etc. Constant review and comment on many Town Planning applications.

Public Talks:

John organised the five interesting and informative public talks in 2019, all well attended and received. The appeal of these talks is evident in the success of attracting attendance from our Wilderness and George residents as well as from Knysna, Plett, and Sedgfield.

Wilderness Heights:

Heights Village: Providing constructive input in meetings and frequent correspondence with Provincial staff and consultants working on concept plans, as well as Municipal officials. A committee of nearby residents interested in contributing to the success of the project has been formed.

Additional Areas of Contribution:

Water:

There was great dismay that the Municipality had to wait a full week for Transnet to make the Kaaimans River Bridge safe to repair the burst pipes. The consequence to water supply in Wilderness Heights was severe, and the water supply to the entire village ultimately suffered as well. Of even greater dismay is that for the ten years that the railway bridge has not been used, the Municipality hadn't made a plan with Transnet for bridge access!

Roads:

Correspondence with Municipality on roads – dangers, condition, speeding, speed bumps, signage, etc.

Rubbish:

Correspondence with Municipality about casual rubbish dumping in various areas, most particularly Seven Passes Road.

Signage:

Continued unsuccessful correspondence with Municipality about signage and parking in the village.

Services: Shiralee Moore

During 2019 I actively worked with the Municipality to resolve a number of issues ranging from street lighting to refuse collection.

I share John's frustration in relation to the Kaaimans burst pipe. Having joined the committee in March 2018 with responsibility for Services, one of my earliest challenges was taking up the issue of a reported leak at the Kaaimans with the Municipality in April 2018. This required regular chasing up on progress until it was repaired in July of that year, only to find it was again leaking in August 2018 and

subsequently in March and July 2019. This particular issue highlights the difficult interrelationships between various public/government bodies when it comes to resolving issues where ‘ownership’ of a problem is not straightforward.

Wilderness Improvement Programme (WIP): Various committee members involved

A number of the executive team members contributed their efforts to this portfolio during the year as we embarked on getting to grips with the various areas of responsibility.

The most ‘visible’ aspect of the portfolio is our Village Monitor Programme that helps to keep our village clean and safe for our residents, as well as visitors. During the year a new team of monitors was appointed and received standard training for their roles as well as attending training on safety, defense and arrests. I would like to take the opportunity to thank our regular WIP Contributors for their support which enables us to provide Wilderness with the Village Monitor Team.

Badger International	Blue Olive
Flava Café	Lew Geffen Sotheby’s
Nanno Evenues (Wheatfields)	Peter Pharoah Art Gallery
Pomodoro	Serendipity
The Girls	The Tops Guest House
Dr R Vos	Wilderness Kwikspar
Wilderness Mini Market	Wilderness Pharmacy
Wilderness Properties	Wilderness Resort Hotel

YOUR CONTINUOUS GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED

In other related WIP areas, Chris Leggatt, portfolio **Business/Tourism**, undertook a project to recommend standard procedures, prices and specifications for advertising on the WRRRA wooden bins and this was implemented during November/December.

Additionally, businesses currently advertising on the Wilderness Wall were contacted about renewal for 2020 and this is now in progress. When finalised we will be embarking on work to refurbish the Wall.

Environment: Pierre Durant

As an architect, Pierre brings a great deal of knowledge to the committee and has worked closely with John Miller on development diligence, assisting on planning and construction issues and OSCA permits.

During the course of the year Pierre has represented the WRRRA as a point of liaison with SANParks and has raised issues with the Municipality in relation to Environmental Impact Assessments and the

removal of alien vegetation.

Pierre has also taken on the role of Vice Chairperson for the WRRR Executive Committee.

Communications: Shiralee Moore, Dee Marcus, Jackie Berry

Managing this portfolio has been a joint effort for much of 2019 in terms of putting together the monthly NewsBites update and ensuring that other WRRR communications were shared with members in a timely manner.

Treasurer: Niel Viljoen

With his previous experience as WRRR Treasurer, Niel had the ability to take on this role with a fairly seamless transition from our previous treasurer early in the year and has maintained all our financial accounts to a high standard. Full details of the end of year accounts are found at the end of this report for members' review.

Membership: Dee Marcus

Dee has continued to streamline membership processes including annual invoicing for subscriptions and maintaining an accurate membership database. She engages with WRRR members on an ongoing basis through personalised communication and works collaboratively with other members of the committee to look at initiatives to attract new members and add value to the Wilderness community. Dee provided strong support to general WRRR communications during the year including contributing to the content and design of NewsBites.

Gardens: Cornell Barnardt

Cornell unfortunately had to stand down from full committee work part way through the year however he has continued on a part time basis. He managed the refurbishment of the wooden bins in the village and has continued supervising the work of the part time gardener, a contribution valued by the WRRR committee, WRRR members and visitors to the village.

Roads / WRRR Website: Doug Wilcox

After some years of looking after the roads portfolio, Doug felt that this was generally under control and decided to step down. With his skill and experience in liaising with the Municipality, John Miller has taken over this portfolio at this time. Doug currently remains active in managing and updating the WRRR website.

Secretarial: Jackie Berry

The Secretarial Portfolio provides support for WRRR members as well as WRRR committee members with main achievements for 2019 being:

- Quick response to member correspondence to acknowledge and resolve questions/issues either personally or by directing to other committee members.

- Supporting the committee including outgoing and incoming team members, as well as members taking on new roles within the committee.
- Involvement in vacant committee portfolios e.g. communication, WIP in order to help maintain continuity during transition period.

Greater Wilderness Area Representatives:

- **Chris Kritzinger/Terry Smith: Hoekwil**
- **Andre Hacquebord: Langvlei Dunes**
- **Liz Gibson: Kleinkrantz**
- **Robin Emslie/Gavin Margrate: Rondevlei**

The participation of these representatives provides a positive interaction that enriches the committee as a whole. Raising issues and sharing ideas that are pertinent to their own areas can provoke more general committee participation and thought sharing. At the same time, as required, the WRRRA is able to provide a greater voice and influence with local authorities in support of these areas.

Highlights of 2019 include the successful and enthusiastic clean-up operations in Touwsrante and 7 Passes and hack of alien vegetation, all involving teams of local Hoekwil community volunteers and achieving ward funding to purchase and install new refuse bins in Kleinkrantz. The representatives also liaise with each other in relation to fire forum, safety and security interventions.

Ward Councilor: Marlene Barnardt

On behalf of the committee and WRRRA members I would like to thank Marlene for her ongoing involvement and contribution. She regularly attends committee meetings and provides support, advice and solutions as well as keeping the committee informed about what is going on in the Municipality. She has also been a strong supporter of many initiatives within the community.

2020 Executive Committee Structure

In the interests of continuous improvement and encouraging involvement of the local community, we are looking to establish teams to work with committee members and to provide opportunities for people who want to contribute but do not necessarily have the time to be full committee members. The main areas of responsibility for 2020 are:

- **Chairperson**
- **Vice Chairperson**
- **Finance:** including team members dealing with accounts and membership administration
- **Marketing:** including team members dealing with membership recruitment, public talks and events, communications (including newsletters, website and social media)
- **Infrastructure:** including team members dealing with development diligence, environmental, services and roads
- **Safety and Security**

- **Wilderness Fire Forum**
- **Wilderness Improvement Programme:** including team members dealing with village monitors, gardens, business liaison and new WIP projects
- **Greater Wilderness Area Representatives:** including Hoekwil, Langvlei Dunes, Kleinkrantz, Rondevlei
- **Secretarial**

A number of our existing committee members will be involved in these portfolios but if you have an interest and/or experience in any of these areas and would like to volunteer please get in contact with us by emailing wrra@tiscali.co.za so that we can arrange to chat with you.

In closing this report I must advise you that due to personal circumstances I am unfortunately resigning as chairperson and am also standing down from the committee for the time being. I would like to thank all of the committee members for their support over the past year and wish WRRRA all the best for the future.

Kind regards,

Shiralee Moore
Chairperson