

WRRRA is pleased to announce that we are putting a Welcome To Wilderness pack together, to be distributed through Sanparks, local Estate Agencies, and the Tourism Office. More on this exciting project before year-end.

Sanparks have tested the water in the Touw River in our neighbourhood and confirm that it is safe for water sports and swimming. However, with many of our members currently putting down water spikes to mitigate the drought, it is suggested you have your water tested. One of our members has done so, to learn from the microbiologist at Plettenberg Bay that his water contains many impurities and solids, is high in sulphur content and definitely not suitable for consumption, even after filtration. The water will corrode copper pipes and geysers and could also kill birds. Long-term use of this water (sampled along Lake Rd.) could also be bad for plants.

George Municipality's Harold Basson, Senior Manager Civil & Technical Department, and Jacques Quinot, Manager: Streets and Storm Water, were recently hosted for a tour of Wilderness Roads. Starting at the Protea Hotel, the subject of traffic calming for Waterside Road was raised. Speed bumps are not favoured by the authorities, so they are currently investigating other possibilities such as "rumble strips", mini circles, and "hour glass" effects, similar to the road/rail bridge over the Touw River at Ebb & Flow. It is clear, however, that while it is intended to study Waterside Road traffic patterns, no solution will be implemented in the immediate future.

The disgraceful state of the village entrance from the N2 is already the subject of a municipal investigation. Designs are being considered by Mr. Quinot to transform the current entrance into a feature that will be more in keeping with the village atmosphere, and will also be attractive from a tourism perspective. Also good news is that village parking problems will be addressed at the same time, although financing for the project has not yet been allocated. Whites and Heights Roads are recognised problem areas, and Mr Quinot advised that he has already written to Eden Municipality pointing out the degraded and potentially dangerous condition that some sections of each road are in. Further follow-up regarding the height and weight restrictions to Whites Road will be undertaken as a matter of urgency. The sub-standard resealing of Seventh Avenue was shown, and a promise was made that the situation will be rectified in October. Mr Basson advised that financial constraints prohibit his department from undertaking all the maintenance that is required in terms of rebuilding and resurfacing roads in the area, but residents can report potholes for patch repair to Mr Johan Boschhoff, Wilderness Superintendent at 044-877-0580, or to Mr Quinot via email at the address quinot@george.org.za. Please be very specific regarding the location of potholes requiring attention, and copy the Association on any correspondence sent to the Municipality.

Just a reminder, in ending, to spread the word about the banning of fireworks. Members who reside in housing estates or gated communities are requested to approach their Body Corporates or HOAs to assist in communicating a warning about the ban.

