

2013 April

We wish to correct a possible misunderstanding that may have been created by our special Newsletter in March, in which we asked members to take up issues directly with the Municipality, and not to use WRRRA as a first port of call. This might have created the impression that WRRRA did not want to get involved with members' issues, but this was never the intention. By all means keep us informed, and where necessary, call upon us to help. The WRRRA contact list was recently distributed to all members; please consult the list for the appropriate portfolio representative.

Village Monitors

The launch of this pilot project has not been without its hiccups, but the service has been well received by businesses, visitors and residents. Now that the initial training is nearly complete, the hours at which the Monitors will be on duty will be changed to cover evenings, as this is the time when the town is at its busiest (and the unofficial "car guards" at their worst).

Considerable interest has been expressed by other areas within the George and Eden Municipalities, faced with a similar problem of unofficial "car guards". We hope that by making this pilot project successful, other areas will have a blueprint that they can emulate. Please don't forget to give feedback, positive or negative, to Hugh Pharaoh (044 877 1753 / 084 257 1739 or hapharoah@gmail.com)

Town of the Year

Trevor White and his enthusiastic band of volunteers have done a sterling job in promoting the first round of the Kyknet Dorp van die Jaar/Town of the Year competition, which ended on 2 April. I am sure most of you have seen the colorful posters up in the village, and probably been involved in sending sms messages in support of the Wilderness' entry. Thank you to all who responded so positively. We are very confident that thanks to your support Wilderness will progress to the second round.

On **Friday 12 April at 16:00** there will be an official information session at Cocomos, briefing the Mayor, the Municipal Manager and invited representatives as to the desired outcomes flowing from our entry in this competition. We will know whether we have made the top 5 Western Cape towns on 24 April.

Freesia Rock pump station

A number of you have reported unpleasant odours in the area and the pollution level of the lagoon remains high around Freesia Rock. A meeting will be held soon with Harold Basson and his team to investigate the problems that we suspect might be related to the conservancy tanks and pump station.

Greater Wilderness Business Initiative – GWBI

The much-anticipated launch of a business initiative for Wilderness will take place at Salina's Restaurant on Monday 15 April at 9:00. Graham Sell, ex-chairperson of the WRRRA commented accordingly: "Opportunities are missed and potential remains untapped because there is no cohesive business development strategy for the Greater Wilderness area. Originally conceived as the Wilderness Business Chamber, research has confirmed the need for a broader mandate covering a wider area, hence the introduction of The Greater Wilderness Business Initiative. As the name implies, it is an organisation that will be empowered to seek cohesive business development initiatives, and to implement those initiatives that will benefit the business community at large. Whether it is feet through the door, bums on seats, bodies in beds, or wheels across the forecourt, the challenge facing all types of businesses is fundamentally the same, and in today's economic climate many of these challenges are better faced together, rather than trying to swim upstream alone."

General Information

- Some of you may have been worried by the announcement that Eskom is increasing its tariff with immediate effect. However, for ratepayers, there is a slight reprieve: since we purchase our electricity from the Municipality, our increase will only be effective from 1 July 2013.
- The Village will soon have 4 new attractive waste bins. These will be manufactured by the SANParks at their Farleigh production facility, and have been generously sponsored by the INTERWIL group through the good offices of one of our members.

- You are reminded that if you intend employing people “off the street” (something we would not advise) it would be wise to check their background with the Wilderness Police Station, as there are a large number of parolees seeking work in this manner.
- Please ensure that if you use a private contractor to empty your conservancy tank they are registered with the Municipality. The reason for this is that if they are not registered they may empty your tank but are not able to discharge their load at the Municipal facility. There has been a recent case where a private contractor is suspected of discharging the load of sewage into one of our rivers, with disastrous results for the environment and water quality downstream.

Pieter Naude
(Chairperson)