

Wilderness Ratepayers and Residents Association, Wilderness, Western Cape, South Africa, 6560
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WRRRA NEWSLETTER - November 2014

Fish Poaching in the Touw River estuary and Wilderness lakes.



Please all be aware and vigilant, especially if you live on the river or alongside the lakes:

Fish poachers have been active in the rivers and lakes in and around Wilderness. Rangers on anti-poaching night patrols have apprehended and arrested a number of poachers. Poachers have been stealing boats and canoes and have been using gill nets to poach fish on the river and in the lakes.

If you see **ANY** suspicious poaching like activity, please report the incidence immediately:

Call SANPARKS on 044 877 1197 or 044 877 0046

Making a difference in Wilderness.



Pictured here is Clare Garner, one of our Gardening Volunteers and Stephen her helper, who has been looking after our beautiful gardens in the Village and along the N2.

If you see them busy at work, hoot and wave. They are doing a great job.

If you have some spare time and would like to assist the WRRRA in some way, please drop us an email on wrra@tiscali.co.za and we will keep you busy and out of trouble!

By the way, the WRRRA Committee needs the expertise of an Engineer to give guidance on some of the engineering issues that the Committee are addressing. Anyone out there ?

What is there to do in Wilderness ?

In line with our Wilderness Improvement Programme, we intend compiling a list of Activities that are available to both locals and holiday makers and publishing these on the WRRRA website. This will take the form of a Photo Gallery of activities and an index of various activities and contact details. Please send the WRRRA the details of your favourite Wilderness activities.

(Please provide contact info, an email address and website if available Send to: wrra@tiscali.co.za)



Blue Flag News



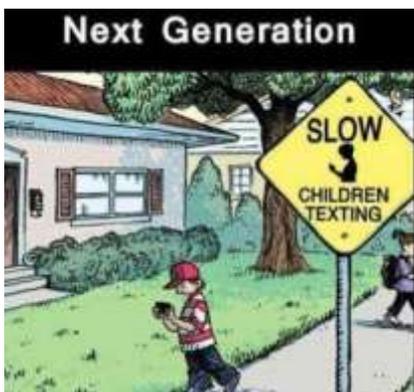
National Minister of tourism Mr. Derek Hanekom presented this year's Blue Flag recipients, which again included Wilderness, with their flags at a presentation held in Knysna on 7th October 2014.

A Blue Flag is an international award given to beaches that meet EXCELLENCE in the areas of safety, amenities, cleanliness and environmental standards. The strict criteria of the programme are set by the international coordinators of the Blue Flag campaign in Europe, the FEE (Foundation for Environmental Education).

In South Africa, the programme is managed by WESSA (the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa), along with participating local authorities under the Department of Environmental Affairs' Coastcare initiative. South Africa is the first country outside Europe to win Blue Flag accreditation for its beaches. South can proudly say that

our beaches are sustaining excellence in beach management and rate among the top beaches in the world. <http://blueflag.org.za>

Wi-Fi Hotspots in Wilderness



The Digital Village Free Wi-Fi coverage in Wilderness now includes Wilderness Village, Salinas, Kleinkrantz, Hoekwill and Touwsranten. Additional hotspots are still being rolled out in the village, various B&B's, guest houses and at the Views Hotel.

So far over 1000 people have used the Free Wi-Fi in Wilderness, with many visitors commenting on the excellent speeds. The Digital Village Free Wi-Fi bandwidth sponsors, Cloud Connect, are currently running a summer promotion on their internet packages. More info on their special is available on: <http://www.cloudconnect.co.za/special>

Conservation News on Constantia Kloof

The Constantia Kloof Conservancy has been privileged to have three cameras equipped with infrared technology that triggers the camera upon any detection of movement, on loan from the Landmark Foundation for the last few months. (PhD student Jeannine MacManus is thanked for her assistance in this regard and Ilza Louw for managing the project for the Conservancy.) This provided the ideal opportunity to learn more about the wildlife within the boundaries of the Conservancy. The Fynbos and Forest vegetation types of our region are generally not known for high numbers of wildlife, mainly due to the acid and low nutritional value of the vegetation. Nevertheless, the cameras captured some interesting footage of some of the common residents in our area: water mongoose, bushbuck, caracal, bush pig, two honey badgers and a porcupine (see below).



Water Mongoose

Bushbuck

Caracal



Bushpig

Two Honey Badgers

Porcupine

Local Pet Database

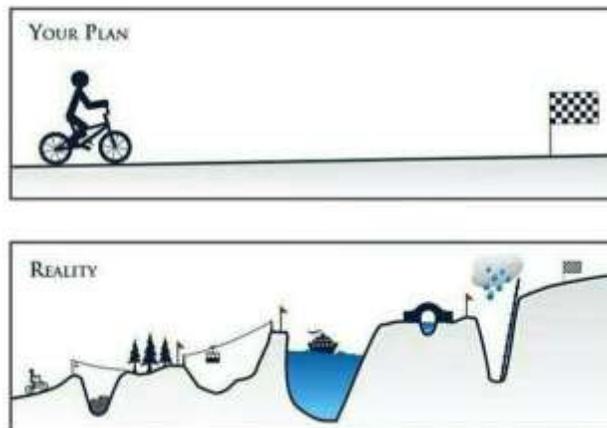


Mandy Store, from The Wilderness Branch of Knysna Vet based in Milkwood Village, has kindly offered to set up a database of our Wilderness pets. So that if we find a lost pet in Wilderness, phone Mandy first and see if the pet is registered with her, before you call the SPCA. Please call Mandy on 044 877 0629 or wildernessvetshop@gmail.com and get your pet registered. She needs the following information :Your name and contact details, Pet's name , breed , description and a picture.

Great initiative Mandy ! Thank you.

Wilderness Heights

This graphic pretty much sums up the Wilderness Heights Erf 329 informal settlement issues. Rest assured, the WRRRA is working with the powers that be and it is hoped that some form of resolution will be forthcoming in the near future. The WRRRA has been assured that this issue has now been prioritized as one of the top three projects to be addressed by the authorities and is in the process of being attended to. WRRRA will keep you apprised as we receive more information.



Security and Safety issues

Put these important numbers into your cell phones and stick them on your fridge **NOW!**

Wilderness Police Station : 044 877 0011 Wilderness Roving Police Van : 082 444 4326

Commander Bennie Boshoff : 084 300 1151 NSRI : 082 990 5955

- **Report any suspicious looking individuals or activities you may see in our community.**

Take proper care and precautions:

- We are almost in the holiday season and we can expect more activity from criminals.
- Ensure that your house doors and windows are locked when you are out or when you go to bed
- Ensure that you garage doors are closed when not in use
- Don't leave toys, bicycles, etc. on your driveway or on the roadside
- Lock your vehicles while parked, even in your driveway
- Do not leave cell phones, handbags, iPads, laptops, etc. visible in your car, even when locked. Rather place them out of sight in the boot of your vehicle, especially at the start of the Hiking Trails and at the Bird Hides.
- Keep key emergency numbers nearby
- Always be aware of your surroundings

Wilderness needs to raise R6, 000 for Extra Holiday Security

W/O Bennie Boshoff has highlighted Peak Security Days as 25th, 26th December and 1st of January. In addition, recent petty crime on Sands Road and in the Village parking areas have highlighted the need for extra security personnel to be available. W/O Boshoff has correctly trained and equipped staff available, but there is a cost attached. The WRRRA can absorb some of this cost, but we appeal to you all too please make a contribution towards this Holiday Security Fund. We will ALL benefit out of the extra security over this busy time. We need to raise R6,000 by 1st December in order to implement this initiative.

B&B's and the Hotels , please ask your guests for a contribution towards funding this WRRRA security project. Everyone, including the guests will benefit from this initiative to improve security and every contribution eases the financial burden. Thank you.

Please bank voluntary contributions directly into the WRRRA bank account, reference "Security Fund".

Account : WRRRA FNB : Branch 210 11400 Account Number : 522 900 767 13

GIPTN

Please lookout for articles about GIPTN in the George Herald. It would be great if the bus service was up and running in time for the December Festive season.

Leila's Lane



Leila's Lane will become a one way within a few days time. The one way will run from Pomodoro up to the stop sign at Whites Road, at doctor Vos's rooms. Please drive carefully, it will take a while before everyone gets used to the changes.

We have been assured that the signs will be less confusing than these shown on the left.

Overflow Parking : SANParks off the N2



George municipality delivers on their promises.

Work has begun on the installation of lights along the lane that connects George Road to the new "SANParks" overflow parking lot.

Look out for the new "P" / Parking signs that have recently been installed in and around the Village.

Community Police Forum

W/O Bennie Boshoff advised that one of the main stumbling blocks to getting successful prosecutions following burglaries is for the owner of the stolen items to be able to prove that items are indeed theirs. The following guide will assist the SAPS with their task.

1. Make a list of all you're your electronic, computer and photographic equipment.
2. Record the make, description (model) and serial number of each item.
3. Take a digital photo of each item clearly indicating the serial numbers.
4. Store all the above information and photographs on a **separate** memory card or memory stick and **not** on your computer.
5. Keep the storage card in a safe place and update it whenever you purchase a new item.
6. Alternatively, save the information on the iCloud. Create a Dropbox account <https://www.dropbox.com> or Google drive account <https://drive.google.com> and save this data safely and securely on the Internet Cloud.

WILDERNESS SECURITY POLICE FORUM : Held at Faerie Knowe Hotel on the last Monday of the month at 17h30. Please attend. This is in all our interest.

Other News

1. The Committee has changed the WRRRA financial year end to 31st December of each year. The WRRRA AGM date will in future be held annually in February. The 2015 AGM date will be advised.
2. Your WRRRA subscription will be due for payment in **January 2015** because of the year end change. In order to simplify matters subs will in future be levied in the same year that they become due. The last increase was ten years ago .The WRRRA Committee has recommended that the Subscription be increased to R150 for the 2015 year. This will be discussed and ratified at the upcoming AGM. The sustainability of the Wilderness Improvement Program, which has been responsible for the improvement in overall cleanliness, neatness and inviting atmosphere in the Village, needs to be maintained and the small increase in subscriptions is a small price that we , the residents can contribute. This translates to only R12.50 per month !
Thanks to the business's in the Village for carrying the **biggest portion** of this cost.
3. Are your neighbours WRRRA members ??? If not, please recruit them !!!
4. **WRRRA/Rotary Magazine Harvest** is up and running! The first load of about 500 harvested magazines was delivered to Thanda Jesu, Seven Passes Initiative, Bethesda, Die Bult, Imizamo Yethu Secondary School and Rosemore Old Age Home. Please drop all your old magazines and nooks at the Tourist office and Rotary will do the rest.

5. **Size does Count !** The WRRRA newsletter will be sent out in PDF format, the same format as the Municipality sends you your monthly rates and taxes account. A saved PDF format newsletter is significantly smaller than a saved Word newsletter and will save us all bandwidth by changing the format. If you have a problem downloading a PDF file, please send us an email on wrra@tiscali.co.za and we will try and assist you to.
6. **Have you been receiving the WRRRA SMS Alerts ??** (Power outages, Security Alerts etc.)
If not, please send update your contact details by sending an email to:
wrrw@tiscali.co.za : Erf Number, Surname, First name and cell number.

Know your Village Ambassadors



Good Reasons for joining WRRRA

- Early warning SMS system to inform of road closures, water and electricity supply issues, weather alerts and security news flashes.
- WRRRA engages and petitions relevant providers in Wilderness on behalf of us all.
- WRRRA drives the Wilderness Improvement Projects. Village Ambassadors Project, Project Dolphin, Wilderness Clean campaign, Wilderness Wall, sorting out signage issues and campaigning for parking are just few of the successful ongoing WRRRA projects.

The Last Word :

Challenges of Coming Season by WRRRA Chairman: Pieter Naude



We are once more faced with a bumper holiday season with an influx of tourists and visitors. Although it is good for business, it places a severe strain on our Village's infrastructure and resources. During the last 18 months, we have all worked very hard to transform Wilderness - our village into a safe, clean, pretty and friendly place to be!

The challenge we now face is to maintain and grow that perception, through this coming season and deliver a pleasant and rewarding experience to residents and visitors alike.

The Village Ambassadors in their yellow jackets has contributed greatly, through their uniformed and visible presence, to the transformation of our Village. They start their day by emptying all the refuse bins in the Village, sweep the streets and pavements where necessary, before starting to patrol the village CBD on bicycle and on foot while helping visitors where they can.

*One of the biggest challenges we face, on a daily basis in the village, is **aggressive vagrants and street vendors** that become a nuisance (mildly put) and pester the visiting public.*

*Secondly, is the selfish and **aggressive behaviour of a some motorists**, who have no regard for the safety of pedestrians and other motorists.*

*Another challenge our Village Ambassadors face is, the **critical eye of the public**, as far as their tasks are concerned, and how they should perform those tasks. This is the byproduct of public duty and places additional pressure on them as they try to please everybody.*

Now, how can you help!

- 1. Please do not encourage vagrants and illegal pavement vendors by feeling sorry for them and tip or buy from them.*
- 2. Please drive carefully and with consideration in the village. The Municipality is in the process of repainting and erecting new signs that will more accurately reflect the current demands for safe driving in the village.*
- 3. Encourage the Ambassadors to do a good job and to excel by the occasional verbal "Thank You". You will be surprised how such a small gesture of appreciation motivates them. They are more likely to accept valid criticism in a spirit of appreciation. After all, they are your Ambassadors looking after your Village.*
- 4. Please become part of the solution and accept with us the challenge to keep our Village safe, clean, friendly and pretty, by suggestion, comment and advice.*

May you have a wonderful Village experience in the coming season.

Thank you for your understanding and support

Regards

Pieter Naude

Wilderness Ratepayers and Residents Association

As a reminder, you are receiving this WRRRA Newsletter because either you are a WRRRA member, a Wilderness landowner or have interacted with WRRRA in the past. Should you not wish to receive our Newsletter in the future, simply email wrra@tiscali.co.za and your email address will be removed from our mailing list immediately.