



Wilderness Ratepayers and Residents Association, Wilderness, Western Cape, South Africa, 6560
wrra@tiscali.co.za 082 895 6317 www.wrra.co.za

WRRRA NEWSLETTER - December 2014

[There is a General Total Ban on ALL Fireworks and Chinese Lanterns in Garden Route National Parks area. This includes Wilderness, the beaches and surrounding countryside. **PLEASE: NO FIREWORKS !**](#)

[PLEASE TELL ALL YOUR VISITORS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY.](#)



Leila's Lane : Done and Dusted !



Please don't break the law and drive down the wrong way to take a shortcut to get to the open parking. This has already cost a few impatient drivers a R 1,500 traffic fine. Similarly please don't use the parking area as a thoroughfare to access Leila's Lane. Use the tarred road and savour the vibrancy and beauty of our Village.

With reference to the article in The George Herald on Thursday 4th December, 2014. Please be aware that the changing of Leila's Lane to a one way was a decision made by and implemented by the municipality as part of the upgrade of the walkways needed for the new bus service soon to be introduced. Although the WRRRA was consulted throughout the entire GIPTN process, the decision to make Leila's Lane a one-way street was not initiated or decided upon by us.

It is a pity that the traffic authorities did not make use of the opportunity to create some much needed goodwill for themselves. They do a very necessary job, but a simple warning would have done wonders towards creating a better perception of what it is that they really do. C'est la Vie !

Bottom Line: Leila's Lane is now a one way and traffic rules apply.

Street Numbers



For the street numbering system to work properly it is vital that residents put their numbers up. If for no other reason, you may need **Emergency Services** to find your home in a hurry.

Your life may depend on it.

PLEASE put your street number up as soon as possible.

Wilderness Parking



There is the misconception that Wilderness village has had a net decrease in parking bays since the GIPTN upgrade began. We did lose 5 bays in front of the Blue Olive and 3 in front of the Pharmacy, but these were won back by the paving upgrade down 'Hardware/Bongo lane'

No doubt about it. This time of the year puts tremendous pressure on the parking system amongst other things. Fortunately we have:-

The parking area behind the mini-market which can accommodate 50 plus vehicles if everyone parks nicely.

Then there's parking for 56 vehicles in the SANPARKS parking area. The access to this area is via a lane sort of opposite the corner of the Hotel's bowling green. New lighting has been installed along the walk way back to George road, and the area will be patrolled by the village monitors during the festive season. There's parking in front of the hotel as well as along the village common in Waterside drive not to mention the pavement area in front of Cocomo's. Don't forget the SPAR parking lot in the evenings.

Your thought for December. "Be slow to anger and quick to forgive"

Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe



Social media was buzzing with excitement, but the excitement was short-lived as it became known that posts regarding the imminent return of the iconic Choo-Tjoe steam train were not entirely accurate. Mike Asefovitz, senior manager of communication and media for Transnet Freight Rail (TFR), said

“TFR regularly receives enquiries and passionate pleas from interested parties regarding the reinstatement and tourism application of the George–Knysna line, which requires a substantial amount of money to repair, and the company, is and remains amenable to initiatives to attract freight traffic back to rail.”

As the line is only a branch line, it does not fall within the greater Transnet strategy. Furthermore it did not generate a profit for Transnet before it was damaged. Therefore the repair was allegedly not a priority with Transnet.

Blue Flag Beach for Wilderness Beach



Our NSRI Wilderness Blue Flag Beach was officially opened by the Deputy Mayor of Eden District Municipality, Lionel Esau on Monday 1st Dec. Thanks to Salinas for hosting the function. Well done to everyone concerned.

Dog walking only allowed from the Knysna side of the NSRI Beach towards Knysna.

Please make sure that beach dog walkers keep their dogs away from the NSRI beach, have dog leads (preferably on the dogs) and most importantly

PLEASE PICK UP THE DOG POOH !!!

That Sinking Feeling



The WRRRA has asked SANPARKS for clarification and justification on behalf of boat owners with respect to the boat/yacht/canoe licence increases that have recently been implemented. The increases are not CPI related and nor has there been any notice given to current license holders. The WRRRA will give the feedback to the WRRRA members including the B&B's, as soon as we have more information.

GIPTN : Go George



On 8 December 2014, GO GEORGE buses started operating on four routes in the first trial phase of George's new scheduled public transport system.

First four trial phase routes to be introduced are:

C24 Loerie Park to the CBD

C53 Rosemoor – Garden Route Mall

C56 Denneoord – CBD

M7 CBD – Wilderness (initially only as far as The Garden Route Mall)

Fares : GO GEORGE will have a distance-based fare system. For trips within the first 15 km the fare will be R8.50, subject to council approval. The first four routes all fall within this distance.

Go George FAST FACTS

- R8.50 (subject to council approval)
- Tickets sold only on the bus (exact change required)
- One free transfer between buses within one hour of ticket purchase
- Accessible for special needs passengers

Visit the website for more information www.gogeorge.org.za

Security and Safety issues

There is a troubling increase in crime in our area. At this stage it is mostly break ins to steal goods that are easily sold for money, probably by culprits that need the money to feed a drug habit. Our experiment with cameras in the village has been a good learning experience. Clearly it is of great help to the police to have video evidence if they can get it, but the quality has to be usable in court. Our cameras simply do not meet this standard; so many cases have gone unassisted by the cameras. The WRRRA is investigating the feasibility of assisting with CCTV cameras in the New Year.

Last month's Newsletter listed some good advice on recording the serial numbers of your high value items. (Relisted below for your reference, because YOU are responsible for your own first line security). This month W/O Bennie Boshoff suggested that making use of products such as DATADOT will greatly assist in the identification of stolen goods. Worth considering www.datdot.co.za

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 Security Fund

What a tremendously positive response the WRRRA had to this request!

Thank you all so much , the funds raised currently sit at R 17,000, R 11,000 more than the initial amount requested, this means that the WRRRA and SAPS can deploy a stronger security team over the holidays than was originally planned.

Visible policing can and will make a difference.

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 : NEW MEETING VENUE in Jan 2015 at The Views Boutique Hotel, Wilderness, 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** Please drop all your old magazines and nooks at the Tourist office and Rotary will do the rest.
5. **Local Pet database.** Please register your pets with Mandy Mandy on 044 877 0629 or wildernessvetshop@gmail.com Your name and contact details, Pet's name, breed, description and a picture.
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: wrra@tiscali.co.za : Erf Number, Surname, First name and cell number.

Know your Village Ambassadors



Thanks to Chris Leggat of Eden Adventures and Jan van der Westhuizen of Wilderness Wheelers who each kindly donated a mountain bike for the Ambassador Program. The bikes will be deployed in our bicycle program for the coming season.

A fifth Ambassadors has been appointed; his photo will be in the Newsletter next month.

Our Ambassadors are : Anthony John Moos, Jandre' Appels, Rolano Prins, Gladwin Booysen, Gershwin Luiters.

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.
- IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING YOUR WRRRA EARLY WARNING SMSs, please drop Vanessa an email on wrra@tiscali.co.za

Member's Feedback

Please let us have feedback from Members. (Constructive criticism welcome too ☺ !)

From Alistair Robertson : Nov 25th : Sewage removal vehicles

(Extract) "My thanks to you Neville for taking an active interest, to Leon van Wyk for action taken, to Pieter Naude and to others who gave their interest and support to this problem."

From the Archives

THE WILDERNESS HOTEL

SOUTH AFRICA'S VISITORS SPELL-BOUND with its BEAUTY

RHODESIA SOUTH AFRICA

Kimberley Johannesburg Durban Port Elizabeth Cape Town

THE WILDERNESS HOTEL

WRITE OR WIRE - WILDERNESS HOTEL, WILDERNESS

**Golf
Tennis
Swim
Surf
Sunbath
Fish (in River or Sea)
Picnics
Walks
Dance
&
Laze away &
Rest.**

IT is a simple unpretentious place; people who come to it mainly come for rest and quiet; fashionable ostentation is absent for the simple reason that it is a Country Place; its quietude and simplicity is one of its principal fascinations to most of its devotees.

The terms have been recently much reduced to meet Gold Standard conditions.

Does anyone have an idea when this advert appeared?

The Last Word:



On behalf of your committee, I would like to thank each and every member for your continued support and guidance during this year. We have tackled many projects and dealt with countless issues but I am proud to say that the Association is all the stronger for it. Unfortunately, the Association cannot be all things to all people but we hope that we have performed to the best of our ability and served the interests of our members and the community.

The generosity with which our members have come forward to support our appeals this year is nothing short of astounding and testimony to the way we all care about our Wilderness.

It remains for me to wish you and yours a peaceful and safe Festive Season and a healthy and prosperous 2015.

Sincerely

Pieter Naude

Chairman

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 end your email address will be remove from our mailing list immediately.