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## WRRRA NEWSLETTER – January 2015

### Wilderness Beach : New Year's Day 2015



The improved walkways and the changing of Leila's Lane into a one way have made a huge difference for pedestrians and also helped with the flow of traffic in and out of the village. The one way traffic on Leila lane also allowed enough space along the grass pavement at the back of the hotel to give extra parking. There were a few people who ignored the one way, but on the whole, worked very well.

Most mornings, the common and general village area was full of

bottles and papers etc after the influx of people, but that was quickly sorted out in the mornings by the Village Ambassadors,, SANParks and our gardener Steven. By 10h30 the village was clean and back to normal.

The beach was cleaned up early on the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and everything was clean and back to normal very quickly. Our heartfelt thanks to the Municipality, Traffic Dept and Police for the great job they did in maintaining peace and tranquility and for getting our beaches cleaned up so quickly. At the post-season briefing between WRRRA and Bennie Boshoff of Wilderness police station, it was agreed that we have learned much, and there are several areas that can be improved with early planning and better co-ordination.

## Wilderness Parking



Thanks to Rohan, Jaques and the Municipal Team, Wilderness gained a few more much needed parking spaces by correctly painting and allocating parking lines in Leila's Lane.

Parking was at a premium over the festive period with the Village Ambassadors doing a sterling job in keeping things orderly. Sadly some of our upcountry cousins showed a lack of concern and simply parked where ever they could.



The WRRRA Committee recognizes that parking is an ongoing concern and is looking at alternative options for the future.

## Wilderness Improvement Program



The WRRRA committee have started a new project, to upgrade the Wilderness Police Station, as part of the Wilderness Improvement Program for 2015. As usual, **No WRRRA membership fees are utilised in any WIP projects.** All funds needed, will be provided for from the WIP Wall income, sponsorships and donations.

The pictures above show the current state of the premises. A poor reflection on Wilderness and it is in our Wilderness interest to fix this. The initial sub-projects identified, in the order of current priorities are:

1. Clear the surrounds of vegetation for two reasons - (due to the urgency : already in progress)
  1. To prepare access for the Honey-Sucker to reach the septic tank in the back
  2. To clean and tidy the access area and create a pleasant entrance to our police station
2. Pave/concrete the parking area at the station - called for quotations
3. Address the short term sewerage and waste disposal crisis.
4. Upgrade/move/rebuild the current septic system to cope with the waste and be in reach of the Honey-Sucker.
5. Refurbish the corrugated shed at the back and convert into two usable rooms.
6. Install small Wendy House structure on the back porch to house the back-up generator
7. Repainting the roof of the station.
8. Investigate the practical functionality of the station's communications and prepare a recommendation

The overall objective of WPSP (Wilderness Police Station Project) is to improve the look of, and work environment in the station, one of Wilderness's strategic assets. We believe that the initial project scope/definition will change with time and conditions. The current scope will enable us to tackle and implement the overall project in phases, as resources become available. This is a wonderful opportunity to extend the boundaries of the WIP outside of the Village CBD, and into an area that will more directly benefit all the people of Wilderness. A special word of thanks to Terry Booth for his plumbing assistance at short notice in December.

## [New Trike for the Village](#)



It was necessary for us to acquire a new Village Trike to replace the old yellow Village Mobile, to ensure that we continue to deliver on our promise of a clean village. The use of these tricycles made it possible for a single Village Ambassador to do the dustbin round before 11:00 in the mornings, before sweeping designated areas. The cleanliness of the Village was highlighted as a noticeable feature by numerous visitors to Wilderness during the holiday season.

We want to extend our appreciation to the following contributing sponsors, that made it possible for us to acquire the Village Trike at short notice: Rennie Family Trust, Boardwalk Lodge, Coimbra Cycles and members of the Wilderness Wheelers.

## [Third Avenue, Wilderness](#)

Mr Jacques Quinot, Deputy Director of Civil Engineering Services, Streets and Storm water for the Municipality has advised that Third Avenue is on the list of streets to be resealed during 2015. The contractor will complete the works within the next 2 months. Due to budget constraints it will not be possible to complete the entire 3rd Ave in one go, but the worst section will receive attention first. Thanks WRRRA member Ernest Harper for raising the issue with the authorities and copying the WRRRA with the correspondence.

## [That Sinking Feeling](#)



SANParks has not yet responded to WRRRA regarding the increased boat/yacht/canoe and bicycle licence increases that have recently been implemented.

## WRRRA AGM 2015

The 2015 WRRRA AGM will be held at the Wilderness Hotel on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 at 17h30 pm**. Please diarse the date. A formal "Notice of AGM" will be distributed via email in due course.

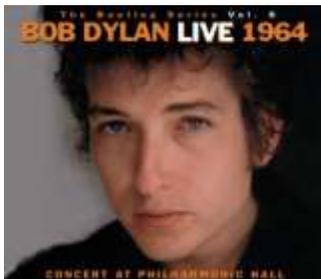
At the upcoming AGM, the Committee will table a proposal to change the WRRRA year-end from October to 31 December.

Your WRRRA subscription is now due for payment. 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. Members who do not have a problem with the proposed increase could go ahead and make their 2015 payment of R150 in advance of the ratification at the AGM.

**The WRRRA needs your support. Wilderness needs your support.**

*Some people want it to happen. Some wish it would happen. WRRRA makes it happen.*

Please come to the AGM and lets continue to make "*Wilderness the place to be*".



*Come mothers and fathers, Throughout the land, And don't criticize, What you don't understand.*

*Your sons and your daughters, are beyond your command, Your old road is Rapidly agin'*

*Please get out of the new one, If you can't lend a hand, For the times they are a-changing.*

## Friends of the Choo-Tjoe



**FRIENDS of the CHOO-TJOE**  
Po Box 846, Sedgefield, 6573  
Tel: 044 343 1868  
Email: [friendsofthechootjoe@talkomsa.net](mailto:friendsofthechootjoe@talkomsa.net)



From around February, the **Diaz Express** will be running between Hartenbos station and Mossel Bay station. Tickets can be bought at the points of departure, prior to boarding, from the train assistant. Rides are on a first come first served basis. However, block bookings of minimum 25 people are available. For block bookings please contact Pierre Poolman at [Pierre@gardenrouterail.co.za](mailto:Pierre@gardenrouterail.co.za) or Mobile: 082 450 7778

Various package tours will be advertised. For instance, starting with a champagne breakfast at the La Peron restaurant at Mossel Bay station, travel by trolley to Klein Brakrivier halt, proceed to Boplaas (3 km) by bus for wine tasting and arts and crafts shopping, then on to Groot Brakrivier by rail for lunch at the Transkaroo restaurant (scrumptious pork belly) on the station premises and then finally back to Mossel Bay. Or start at Groot Brakrivier with a breakfast and then travel to Baruch's premises near Langeberg Mall for a coffee tasting experience with a very interesting interactive information session around coffee cultivating and the various processes. Discounted tickets will not be available for these packaged tours for FCT members. **WATCH THE PRESS FOR MORE DETAILS.**

## GIPTN : Go George



### 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](http://www.gogeorge.org.za)

Watch the Press for details

## How can you Help ?

- Website

Our WRRRA website [www.wrrra.co.za](http://www.wrrra.co.za) needs a facelift. Is there anyone out there who can assist the Committee in breathing new life into the website and then training a few of us in Joomla, the content management program that our website was created in. Please make contact with us on [wrrra@tiscali.co.za](mailto:wrrra@tiscali.co.za)

- Fireworks

Thanks to all of you who did not use fireworks this year. There was a vast reduction in the use of Fireworks over the holiday period. Despite efforts to curtail their use, some individuals still persisted in using fireworks and the SPCA has advised that there were animal casualties as a result. Please do your bit and try and dissuade your guests, friends and visitors from using fireworks.

- Wheelie Bins : It's time to get one



OR



Please consider investing in a wheelie bin for your household garbage. They are clean and tidy, convenient to move, easy to use, the lid closes and stops smells from rotting garbage, they are rodent proof and most importantly, animal proof. Bush pigs and dogs cannot get to the garbage bags and the wheelie bin makes an ideal perch for recyclable waste. Wheelie Bins are available from Agri, Builders Warehouse and Plastics for Africa amongst others. Costs range between R720 to R790. (Remember your pensioner's discount☺).

And please remember not to put your rubbish and recycling out until the morning of your designated collection day. If you see a neighbor doing so, please have a nice word with them in the interest of a clean and tidy Wilderness.

## 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:

- 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
- Jamming devices have been used over the festive season, so make sure that your car doors have locked properly before you leave your car.
- 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

### **Visible policing DID make a difference.**

Many thanks to all our Wilderness residents who participated in our year end Wilderness Security Project. The fruits of the funds raised were VISABLY apparent in the form of many Yellow Jackets that were actively policing and monitoring the goings on in our Village, on the Beaches and on our roads. Special thanks to Station Commander Bennie Boshoff and his Team, as well as WRRRA Security Portfolio holder Ian van Rooyen, Fran Anderson and the Village Ambassadors.

The WRRRA festive period security initiative was clearly a huge success. The Committee has received many accolades from members and visitors to Wilderness (see printed elsewhere in this newsletter). The WRRRA has taken note of the glitches that arose and are in the process of addressing these issues to ensure that next year runs even smoother. Further updates and report backs will be tabled in future Newsletters.

Wilderness was clean and safe. Let us keep it that way.

## Community Police Forum

**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. Are your neighbours WRRRA members ??? If not, please recruit them !!!
2. **WRRRA/Rotary Magazine Harvest** Please drop all your old magazines and books at the Tourist office and Rotary will do the rest. Over 500 magazines and 100 books were collected over December and Rotary will distribute these as soon as the schools re-open. A **REALLY** worthwhile project.
3. **Local Pet database.** Please register your pets with Mandy Mandy on 044 877 0629 or [wildernessvetshop@gmail.com](mailto:wildernessvetshop@gmail.com) Your name and contact details, Pet's name, breed, description and a picture.
4. **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](mailto:wrra@tiscali.co.za) : Erf Number, Surname, First name and cell number.



## 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 Program. Village Ambassadors Project, Project Dolphin, Keep Wilderness Clean campaign, Wilderness Wall, sorting out signage issues and campaigning for parking are just few of the successful ongoing WRRRA projects.

## From the Archives



Does anyone have an idea when this advert appeared?  
Thanks to Hugo Leggatt who gave us the following information.  
The attached ad, I estimate a date of around 1933... For those who don't know, Owen Grant ran the Wilderness (hotel and village) from 1921 for over 30 years

## Interesting Wilderness Facts and Folk

An African record for "large timber moved and used in construction", right here in Wilderness !

Progress is steady in Wilderness Heights on Roy Trembath's 'Garden shed' being constructed from Eucalyptus logs, reaching the completion of the log structure.

The next step is the installation of some 2.5km of ceiling boards, all cut on site by the man himself, following this, the roof sheeting.

The log structure contains a couple of unique features, including a 20meter long roof ridge-pole weighing 7 tons, raised by hand and certainly a record for 'large timber moved and used in construction'.

Using un-machined logs for such a structure is a most economical and environmentally sustainable method of construction, due to the fact that the trees consume carbon dioxide throughout their growing life (carbon sequestration) and almost no embodied energy is used to convert them into building material, on top of that, the trees will re-grow many times over during the lifespan of the structure. Roy has used Eucalyptus Saligna for the structure, which is an alien invasive species, thereby having an added advantage of helping to remove the species.

Roy runs the South African Log Home builders Association and so far has taught over 600 people to build these structures. For more details and pictures, browse to [www.logbuilding.co.za](http://www.logbuilding.co.za).



## Member's Feedback

- [This letter sums up the rest of the letters the WRRR received 😊 !](#)

Goeiemore Pieter,

Gelukkig is al die hoge dae ook nou verby en kan mens weer die jaar met 'n nuwe blaadjie "tackle" Danie en ek wil graag aan almal baie dankie se dat hierdie Fees Seisoen so goed afgeloop het. Dit was by verre verby, baie baie beter as verlede jaar. Ons moet almal bedank vir 'n wonderlike samewerking..... die Munisipaliteit,.... die Polisie die ouens wat Strandwagte was. Almal wat gehelp het om dit vir almal 'n baie lekker vakansie te kon verseker. Groete Danie en Maryna Marais

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

- [George Herald](#)

The George Herald of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 had some very complimentary articles about Wilderness and also published letters from visitors and residents complementing Wilderness on its cleanliness, friendliness and great organisation. Wilderness is definitely **the** place to be.

## [The Last Word:](#)



The Festive Season is a great time to have family and friends to visit us, and Wilderness remains one of South Africa's most highly regarded destinations to visit. The last month or so has been manic to say the least, and the dynamics of a **Wilderness gone Wild**, tested every aspect of planning, commitment and dedication. I believe that we coped well under these trying circumstances, and learned some valuable lessons in the process. Now, the time has come to apply what we learned, and focus on the greater Wilderness. We want to ensure that in the coming years our banner of "*it's **the place to be***", will be an experience that extends beyond the Village and beyond visitors, into the greater Wilderness and its residents. May you be blessed with a wonderful 2015, and continue to enjoy the best that Wilderness has to offer!

As Always

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](mailto:wrra@tiscali.co.za) and your email address will be removed from our mailing list immediately.