



Wilderness Ratepayers and
Wilderness, Western Cape,

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Residents Association,
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WRRRA NEWSLETTER – March 2015

WRRRA AGM 2015

A very well attended AGM was held on 23rd February 2015 at the Wilderness Hotel. Chairman Pieter Naude gave a comprehensive presentation on the achievements and changes the WRRRA dealt with over the past year. A copy of his Chairman's Report is available on the website at www.wrra.co.za.

There was spirited and robust discussion on various issues that affected Wilderness and in general, these were all well resolved. Thanks to all those who partook in the discussions, to Neville Ewing for chairing the meeting and to The Wilderness Hotel for providing the venue.

It's Never too Late !

The HOGS had us all drooling over these beautiful Harleys on 6-9th March in Wilderness. The organization was slick and well run and it was a pleasure to see so many interesting and well behaved visitors in Wilderness.



Thanks Imel for the pic. Royalty cheque is in the mail © !

Wilderness Improvement Program

- **Wilderness Police Station Project.** Residents will already see a positive visible difference at the WPS . The parking will soon be lit up at night off the street lighting circuit. Hoekwil Residents Association have made a contribution towards the upgrade, which will go towards setting up a Wendy house to house the generator. If you would like to assist financially or become involved in the upgrade, please contact the WRRRA at wrra@tiscali.co.za and you will be contacted. Become involved in the community and help us improve our Wilderness. Take a drive past the Police Station and see the Wilderness Improvement Program in action.
- **Jawitz Properties, Wilderness** has undertaken to look after the circle garden opposite the Views Hotel. Thanks Jawitz team on behalf of us all.
- **Old Wilderness Station and railway line.** Thanks to the perseverance of the WRRRA, Transnet have undertaken to clean up the line from Touw bridge to the end of Leentjiesklip. Thereafter, WRRRA has undertaken to maintain this area in the future, once Transnet has cleared the area.
- **Sands Road.** As mentioned at the AGM, the WRRRA started a project to address issues on Sands Road and has teamed up with a group of Sands Road residents to identify these issues and come up with a way forward for Sands Road.
- **Eco- friendly wooden refuse bins** made and placed at all the entrances to the beach from Sands Rd
- **Overgrown Vegetation.** The municipality is currently cutting back the overgrown bush in and around Wilderness. Soon to be cleared, the area leading to the car park between the Pearl Hotel and Wilderness Garden Estate. The bush along the Serpentine, 2nd and 3rd Ave in Wilderness East is currently being attended too. Various other areas have been identified and will be cut back as resources become available.

SANPARKS



The substantial SANPARKS fee increases still remain and issue. Various organizations have tackled SANPARKS on behalf of the public. It remains to be seen what the outcome will be. Sadly, you should not hold your breath waiting for a positive outcome.

Please note that OYSTER HARVESTING commercial licences have expired. Please report anyone you see collecting large quantities of oysters to SANPARKS on 044 **877 1197**

Peeping Paras



Some **Passing Paragliding Peeping Toms** have raised the ire of Wilderness residents who own homes close to the para gliders flight paths. In discussion with several of the paragliding operators, the WRRRA has been assured that the organisers advise their paraglider pilot clients **NOT** to go too close to private properties and invade people's privacy. Sadly, many take no heed and it seems that the only way to stop this invasion of your privacy is to try and take photos of the offending pilot and his paraglider and then lay a charge at the Police Station. A couple of hefty fines may make an impression. Not an easy task as you must show some perspective that shows how close they are. The pictures above would probably not be good enough to make a case, as it could be argued that these pictures shown were probably taken using a telescopic lens. Who said life was easy? Good Luck!

Whereabouts in Wilderness



The Tom Toms will soon be beating in tune with our SAPS Team on the beat.

Thanks to Wilderness resident Colin Bernic for donating a state of the art Tom Tom GPS for our Wilderness SAPS van. The Tom Tom was handed over to our Wilderness Station Commander Bennie Boshoff on Monday at the Wilderness Hotel. Become involved, your security is also your own concern.

L to R : Dawie Ackerman , W/O Bennie Boshoff, Donald Goldfain, Ian van Rooyen

PROMINENTLY DISPLAY YOUR STAND NUMBER ON YOUR HOUSE.

Help SAPS and Emergency vehicles to find you. **This may well save a life !**

GIPTN : Go George



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

The Roll out to Wilderness and Touwsrante is
scheduled for August 2015

Hold Thumbs !!
Watch the Press for details

How can you Help ?

- Wheelie Bins : It's time to get one



OR



- Clean your own street

Here is a good idea from a Wilderness resident. Isobel van Vuuren, who lives on Whites Road, Wilderness. As part of his duties, Isobel gives her gardener a black plastic bag to carry when he walks down to the Village after work. On the way he collects any rubbish he finds on the road and he bins the rubbish when he gets to the Village. **Excellent Community spirited idea**, why don't you follow suit?

Give That Lady a **BELL'S**

- Illegal Dumping in Wilderness

Thank you Steve Cox for bringing this to our and the George Herald's attention. If you see anyone illegally dumping ANYTHING in Wilderness and our surrounds, try and get a photo of the offender in the act and contact the municipal law enforcement offices on 044 801 6350 or environmental services on 044 802 2900. Drop the WRRRA an email with the photo and information on wrra@tiscali.co.za and let's start to "Name and Shame" campaign. Let's Keep Wilderness Clean!

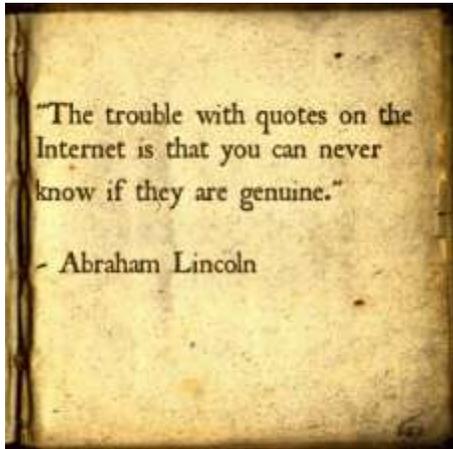
Village Ambassador Program

Dawie Ackermann of the Wilderness Hotel has been appointed as the supervisor of our monitors, reporting to Ian van Rooyen (Safety Portfolio). We have had the various cycles repaired and serviced where necessary, ensuring that the monitors have the means to get around the village efficiently. This enhances their visibility in the area. Our sincere appreciation goes to Tekkie Town for sponsoring the monitor's shoes.

Ward News

Our Ward Councilor, Councilor Leon van Wyk advised that WARD 4, the Ward in which Wilderness is part, will probably be reduced in size in line with the Demarcations Boards formula based on the number of eligible voters in the Ward. The WRRRA will advise once more information is available. Watch the press for details.

Embrace Technology



Mailchimp Statistics for our Newsletter readership show the following:

- 413 WRRRA February Newsletters sent out on email.
 - 397 Newsletters delivered. (16 emails bounced, either full mailboxes or incorrect email addresses)
 - 201 Emails were opened (the rest were either ignored or went to Junk Mail and were not opened by the recipient.)
 - 26 recipients reread the previous months newsletters,
- 3 people downloaded a WRRRA membership application form
 - 351 emails were opened in SA, 31 were opened in USA, 9 in Qatar, 3 in Japan and 3 in the UK.

An SMS campaign will be sent to advise people to check their Junk Mail folders and we will see if we can improve the readership numbers.

The WRRRA will be embarking on a membership drive over the next few months and we encourage you to please ask your neighbours to join the WRRRA if they are not yet members. See www.wrra.co.za for membership application forms.

Dog Ordinances'

WAITING FOR MARLENE TO SEND DETAILS

From the Archives

The legend of "the Wilderness"

A romantic legend would have us believe that The Wilderness was founded after a young man met the beautiful orphan, Theresa. She, insisting on being taken away from "the hauntings of memory", sang to him from Haydn's Creation "...In the wilderness build me a nest, let me remain there forever at rest..." They finally settled here after various trials, tribulations and adventures.

The reality is that it was named by George Bennett and his wife Henrietta when they purchased the property in the late 870's. Coming over the hilltop from George, they looked down on the property and Henrietta remarked "what a Wilderness". The rest is history.

Thanks Pieter Naude.

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 Fire Staion : 044 801 6311

Wilderness Life Guards : 044 801 6311 NSRI : 082 990 5955

SANPARKS (24 hrs) : 044 877 1197

- **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

Neighbourhood Security : WHATSAPP Group success



Following the Kingfishers Close residents lead, this initiative to get members in Wilderness to set up Street WhatsApp groups has begun bearing fruit.

Lucy Rautenbach , a Sands Road resident, started a Sands Road WhatsApp Street Security Group recently. Here is a perfect example of how neighbours' attentiveness plus a group platform can contribute to the foiling of a robbery. On Saturday evening Beejuice Cafe staff and neighbours apprehended a yellow bib-wearing 'car guard' as he was attempting to break in to cars outside the restaurant. He was caught with a key, labelled 'back gate'. Our neighbour immediately posted a message re the incident and another neighbour reported the key stolen from her back garden gate (key had been left in the gate in error).

Police were swiftly on the scene and the alleged perpetrator was caught and arrested within minutes. The key was returned to the rightful owner.

Please take responsibility for our own street security.

Start your own street's WhatsApp Street Security Group.

Community Police Forum

WILDERNESS SECURITY POLICE FORUM : NEW MEETING VENUE in February 2015 at The Views Boutique Hotel, Wilderness, Monday 30th March 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.
3. **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.

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 : 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.

Useful Links

Simply click the link below:

Wild News Facebook page : https://www.facebook.com/WildNews?ref=br_tf

Wilderness Tourism Facebook page

:https://www.facebook.com/search/str/wilderness%20tourism/keywords_top

The Last Word:



Now that the dust has settled after the Annual General Meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members who attended the AGM for their support and enthusiasm for the Association. It is not only encouraging to know that you support us, but it motivates us to do what we want to for you and Wilderness.

There are many challenges ahead, but with the relationships that we have built over the recent past and with a hard-working and dedicated committee, I'm confident that we can continue to make *"Wilderness the place to be"*.

Chairman Neville Ewing

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.