



Wilderness Ratepayers and
Wilderness, Western Cape,

wrra@tiscali.co.za

082 895 6317

www.wrra.co.za

Residents Association,
South Africa, 6560

WRRRA NEWSLETTER – June 2015



"Wilderness the place to be". [Wilderness Beach –Paul Rixom](#)

Wilderness Improvement Program

- **Wilderness Police Station Project.** Please contact the WRRRA on wrra@tiscali.co.za if you are able to contribute in any way. We need some offers for paint and offers of labour to the painting of the offices.

Already done ;-- Repairs to sewerage system-- Supplied Wendy house for generator.-- Had electrical work done to connect generator.-- Repaired broken gutters.-- Removed or cut back numerous trees . Two streetlights have been erected giving light to the parking area. (Thanks to the Municipality)

Still a lot to be done .-- Repair or replaced various outside flood lights including the blue police light. :-- Repair / improve front concrete boundary wall.-- Replace old metal/wire gates.-- Install one new large sliding gate in order for a large truck to gain access to the back yard.-- Paint roof of police station.-- Repair / sand and varnish wooden balustrades .-- Refurbish or

demolish old "holding cells"-- Grade and throw large concrete slab in visitors parking area (this is probably biggest cost at about R60,000)

Thanks to Isobel van Vuuren (Erf 303) who has already collected money towards the roof painting, but we still need about R2, 500 more. Once again, thanks to Phillip of B&G Electrical and Terry Booth Plumbing for their invaluable help and contributions. Thanks.

- **Upgrading the Kleinkrantz Waste water plant.** Are you aware that our waste water plant, servicing Wilderness at Kleinkrantz has recently been upgraded with National Treasury spending approx. R 9 million on the project? Take a drive past and have a look.



- **Annual Municipal Wilderness Breakfast.** The WRRRA hosted a successful working breakfast at the Wilderness Hotel for senior Municipal Managers to meet with the WRRRA Committee and provide insight into the Municipal plans for Wilderness. Highlights of the feedback received;
 - *3rd Rd and Lake Rd to be resealed Sept/Oct *Erica to be re-gravelled * Storm water upgrade at Peter's Pd underway* (Budgets: Resealing R8mil, Storm water R1.5mil)
 - * Re-gravel various Roads in Wilderness Heights and Hoekwil *Upgrade of edges on 5th to 8th Rds
 - *Heights road will be upgraded and Whites Rd re-graveled by Eden Municipality in the next year or two.
 - *Our drinking water has achieved "Blue drop Status" and Waste Water "Green Drop Status" for 2015. George and Wilderness has the cleanest water in the Western Cape.
 - *Power generators have been prioritized for the 150 sewerage and water pumping stations in the Municipal area to provide power when we have load shedding.
 - * Residents have again been encouraged to report problems directly to the municipality and ensure that they get a reference number, and not to the WRRRA.
 - * New electric poles and cables are being installed in Wilderness Heights.*The Committee is happy to report that a positive working spirit of co-operation has been firmly established with the Municipality.

- **Heights Road Water Pipes.** Have you ever wondered what the pipes alongside Heights Road are? In some cases they are underground, but there is a long stretch where they are “fixed” to the bank on the right side of the road (as you go uphill). They may look temporary, even fragile, but it turns out that the pipes are in fact municipal water connections to the properties in Wilderness Heights, above ground where the terrain is rocky.
- **Heights Road Electricity Poles and Cables.** Heights Road travelers will have noticed the recent erection of electric poles and aerial bundle-conductor cabling along the roadside. This new electrical infrastructure is replacing old and tired poles and their old and high-maintenance bare overhead lines. The new equipment will require much less maintenance and will not deteriorate easily. Note that the work is not providing for any new electrical connections in the Heights. Rather, the purpose of this project is to minimize electrical outages caused by low hanging branches and adverse weather conditions.
- **Wilderness Water Quality.** The WRRRA receives monthly reports from the George Municipality with the laboratory results of our drinking water. The most recent “Drinking Water Certificate of Analysis”, for April of this year, shows that our water is well within the national limits set for all health indicators. Water is collected for testing from the Wilderness water treatment plant at Ebb-and-Flo, as well as selected points in the distribution network. Let us know if you’d like copies of these reports.

Who are we?

All done in jest and taken in jest, with the exception of one rather rude comment (calling it a dumb idea) regarding what Wilderness residents would like to call themselves. It seems that the consensus was that **Wildernerians** was the most popular name for us lucky folk. However, a sensible and constructive suggestion was that you all call yourselves whatever name you prefer, just remember how lucky you are to be living here. So go ahead , call yourself a Wildernerian, Wildernista, Wildernessian, Wildernisser or whatever blows your hair back and let the New Yorkers, Berliners, Capetonians, Bostonians, Muscovites , Georgians, Johannesburgers and all the rest know that we live in paradise in

“Wilderness the place to be”.

PROMINENTLY DISPLAY YOUR STAND NUMBER ON YOUR HOUSE.

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

Traffic Enforcement Feedback



Mark Green from traffic law enforcement was a guest at the last WRRRA Committee meeting. Here are some of the discussion topics covered:

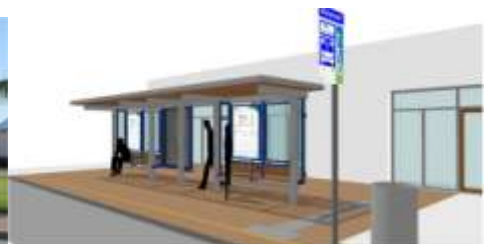
- Kingfisher/Hoekwil intersection needs space for a bus stop. Budget restraints at the moment.
- Speeding on Waterside Road. Expect to be caught if you are guilty of speeding here.
- Stop sign behind Dr Vos (Sanctuary/Heights) is being ignored. Be warned. EXPECT A HEAVEY FINE!
- Leila's Lane is still being used as a two way street. More signage will be going up to stop people driving down the wrong way on this one way. EXPECT A FINE!
- Points-man needed on duty over holidays at the N2/George Rd and entrance to Wilderness.
- Speeding is a general problem all over Wilderness and Wilderness has been put onto the rooster for enforcement. EXPECT A FINE!
- A request was made that a traffic patrol car patrols Wilderness on an ad-hock basis as a deterrent.
- A Municipal Court is being planned for George to process traffic fines in the future.

Go George: Changing the dynamic of people's lives.



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

The Roll out to Wilderness and Touwsrante is now scheduled for last Quarter of 2015. Bus shelters will be erected in at least two places in Wilderness. A "shelter assessment" will be made once the service is in operation and shelters will be erected once the assessment has been done. There will be at least two shelters in Wilderness. Take a drive down Cradock Street in George where the three variations of the bus shelters have been erected for review and comment.



Watch the Press for details

Eishkom: Load shedding schedule

Load Shedding for Wilderness & George 2015: Click on the link below to take you to the Load Shedding Schedule. <http://www.georgeherald.com> , look for the "Load shedding" headline on this page.

Download a really useful FREE App on your Smartphone: **EskomSePush**. Gives Load shedding details by specific area and sends Whats App messages! Check for **EskomSePush** in your phone's App Store.
(Really useful App. Try it !)

Ward News

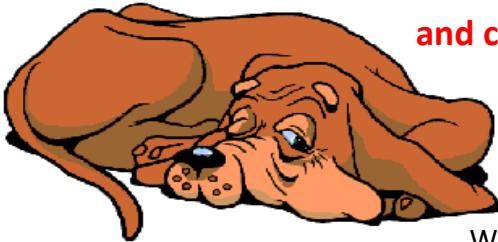
Councilor leon van Wyk advised that the budget for George had been approved.

Dog Ordinances

Please refer to the full Bylaw on the WRRRA website by clicking this link:

<http://www.wrra.co.za/images/stories/PDF/Newsletters/dogs%20and%20cats%20by%20laws%20feb%202015.pdf>

Please pick up the Dog Pooh. Dog pooh on the beach gets washed into the sea and can and will affect our required Blue Flag water tests.



Please don't let your Pampered Pooch be the reason Wilderness loses its Blue Flag status!

We are all feeling the change of weather with the cold fronts upon us. It is quite often during these colder months that we see our beloved older pets struggling to get up out of bed in the mornings or refusing to jump onto the couch or into the car. This is usually due to arthritic joints that stiffen up in cold damp weather, much the same as in us!

There are thankfully many ways that we can keep our geriatric pets comfortable. Top of the list of course: Take your best friend to the Vet! Ensure that their weight is kept on the slim side to reduce the load on their sore joints. Supplement your pet's diet with oral joint protectants at the earliest sign of arthritis. (Ask your Vet). And you should begin dog foods containing these joint supplements that aid in slowing the progression and alleviating the associated pain of arthritis. Once the joint pain is not controllable with conservative treatment you may have to give daily pain and anti-inflammatory medication to keep your pet comfortable. See your Vet.

(Thanks to Knysna Veterinary Clinic for their informative article which has been summarized above)

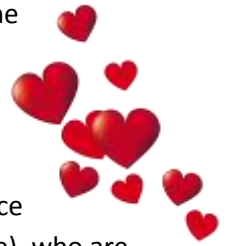
‘PAWS’ up if you **feel** for animals!



This is an appeal to all animal lovers and all people blessed with compassion.

Walk into the informal settlements of Kleinnkranz or Wilderness Heights and you’ll see that there is a dire need for better animal welfare. So many dogs infested with worms and mange; so many cats with Feline AIDS or Leukemia; and too many animals breeding because they are unsterilized!

The Garden Route SPCA and PDSA are battling to cope with the needs of animals in the more vastly more populated, low cost housing areas of George and Mossel Bay and are simply unable to spend sufficient time and precious resources in small, outlying areas like ours.



Fortunately for Wilderness there are two women, (each with some 15 years experience in animal welfare and both currently serving on the GR SPCA Management Committee), who are anxious to address the Wilderness problem areas on a purely voluntary basis:

Estelle le Roux (ex Klienmond Animal Welfare fieldworker and Garden Route SPCA Animal Welfare Assistant), would focus on the **Kleinnkranz** area, and, in time, **Rita Brock** (ex Knysna Animal Welfare Society and Cape Town Feral Cat Programme), would focus on Wilderness Heights (and Touwsrante, should the Hoekville Residents Association come on board).

This project has been named ‘**PAWS**’ – ‘**Partners in Animal Welfare Support**’. Its aim is to:

- ✚ **Educate** animal owners re proper animal care and the new animal keeping by-law,
- ✚ **Provide basic health care**, i.e. deworming, dipping to treat mange, fleas and ticks, supplementary food where needed, etc.
- ✚ **Identify more serious health problems** which would then be referred to the GR SPCA or veterinarian Dr Elke Schwellnus of VetCare, (who wants to support the Kleinkranz project.)
- ✚ **and convince pet owners to have their animals sterilized.**

Estelle has already got the SPCA’s commitment to partner the project! The SPCA will sterilize 8-10 animals per month and supply tablets, dip, etc at cost! Animal owners will be asked to contribute towards the costs but, in reality, few owners are able to pay the full amount... and it is inhumane to leave infected animals untreated just because their owners cannot immediately produce R20 for deworming tablets or R50 to have their bitch in season sterilized.



So how can we raise the funds required to sustain this vital service?

We are appealing to YOU... compassionate Wilderness animal lovers... to become partners in the PAWS project by making a donation and/or a small monthly stop order to: WRRRA, FNB, George Branch 210 11400, Account No: 522 900 767 13. **IMPORTANT – please use your NAME and PAWS as reference:**

The WRRRA will be partnering PAWS by receiving your donations and stop order payments and will control the monthly reimbursement of costs on presentation of a detailed monthly report. WRRRA members will be kept in touch with the project via WRRRA newsletters.



Untreated mange... often brought on by stress and malnutrition... caught early it can be cured!

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 Station	: 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.

Neighbourhood Security : WHATSAPP Group success



- Please take responsibility for our own street security.
- Start your own street's WhatsApp Street Security Group.

- Embrace Technology



Community Police Forum

WILDERNESS SECURITY POLICE FORUM : NEW MEETING VENUE in 2015 at The Views Boutique Hotel, Wilderness, Monday 29th June 2015 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 Lisa 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

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:



"Wilderness the place to be".

I am pleased to let you know that we have two (yes 2!!!) new committee members!

Firstly, Chris Burlock is probably well known to most of you for her work with the SPCA and perhaps less well known, was her role in the Rooiels Conservancy. Chris has jumped in at the deep end and will be tackling the Environmental Portfolio and has already come up with some great proposals, such as a recycling bin for light bulbs and batteries in Wilderness.

Secondly, Clare Scott, who owns a B&B on Sands Road, has agreed to "tackle" Sands Road as a project in itself as part of the Wilderness Improvement Program. Clare will be assisted by Lucy Rautenbach. Already, the area just south of the tunnel from the garage to the station has been cleaned, and Num Num bushes planted to discourage the vagrants. This is not a once-off event and the ladies will be

enlisting the support of all the B&Bs and businesses as well as residents of Sands Road to “come to the party”. Sands Road is, particularly in the season, a major thoroughfare to our beach and we want to really make a positive and permanent difference.

Our committee recently held a working breakfast with George Municipal official headed by Civil and Technical Director, Harold Basson and Go George project manager, Jacques Quinot amongst others. The work that our municipal officials are doing, often under difficult and under resourced circumstances, is nothing short of inspiring. Our relationship is one of mutual respect and cooperation and we will support them. We have also interacted with Mark Green of the Traffic Law Enforcement to address some of the problem areas in Wilderness, focusing on safety and making Wilderness less of a rat race. We will update you in due course.

Cheers

Neville Ewing
Chairman WRRRA Committee

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.