

Wilderness Ratepayers and
Wilderness, Western Cape,

wrra@tiscali.co.za

082 895 6317

www.wrra.co.za

Residents Association,
South Africa, 6560

WRRRA NEWSLETTER – July 2015



"Wilderness the place to be". Wilderness Beach –Paul Rixom

YAY! Battery and Low Energy Bulb **RECYCLING BINS** come to Wilderness

InterWaste have kindly responded to the WRRRA request for a recycling bin for these 'hazardous' waste items. So look out for the bins coming soon to our local Spar!



Website Upgrade

Thanks to the sterling hard work by fellow Wilderness resident Doug Wilcox, our WRRRA website has had a make-over. Doug has upgraded all the software to speed up the website interaction and make it more user-friendly. The content on the website has been updated and simplified with currently relevant articles and links. Items such as Load shedding, Weather forecasts, Newsletters and a host of other information are now available by simply visiting www.wrra.co.za .



The project is a Work-in-Progress and we encourage you to email us on wrra@tiscali.co.za and please give us feedback and recommendations on what you would like to see on the website. We will see what we can do.

Our goal is to make this website a user friendly, easily updatable website for **residents and visitors** to use for local Wilderness and Garden Route information. On the drawing board is a "Calendar of Events" easily updated and managed by the event organisers themselves, a comprehensive list of "Things to Do" for residents and visitors alike and a host of other useful information.

The picture gallery will be increased with iconic Wilderness pictures and appropriate captions so that people interested in Wilderness will get a visual feast of Wilderness vistas and activities. Please send us one or two of your best pictures with a relevant caption and we will publish these in the galleries.

Please visit the upgraded upgraded WRRRA website on www.wrra.co.za .

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.
 - The WRRRA have recently received a R2 000 anonymous donation for the cleaning and painting of the roof. We now have a total of R4 000 donated and require about R6 000 for this part of the upgrade. **STILL NEED R2 000 TO FINISH THE PAINTING !**
 - We will shortly have the R20 000 required to repair and improve the concrete wall in the front of the police station. At the same time we will have the old wire gates removed and new gates installed. **(This money has been provided by the Municipality)**
 - There still remains a lot of work at the police station and the WRRRA would welcome any donations

- **Services**

Rubbish and Recycling Collection Holiday Schedule: If your rubbish and recycling collection day falls on a public holiday, be aware that the Municipality does not collect rubbish or recycling on public holidays. Rather, your rubbish and recycling will be collected the day following a public holiday. If the public holiday falls on a Friday, rubbish and recycling will be collected on the Thursday before the holiday.

Rubbish Black Bags: The Municipality distributes packs of 26 black bags every three months. You should have received a pack on your first collection day of May 2015. You should receive your next pack on your first collection day of August 2015, and every three months after that – November 2015, February 2016, May 2016, etc. If you do not receive the pack, call Wessel Robertson at 044 802 2904. If you still don't find joy, you can pick up a pack of bags at the face brick municipal building at 82 Meade Street in George, between Victoria and Albert Streets.

Recycling Blue Bags: InterWaste distributes a blue bag for every blue bag they collect, on the day of collection. If they collect two blue bags of recycling from you, they should distribute two new bags to you at the same time. If you do not receive the replacement bags, call Kirsty Hofhuis at 044 878 0688.

[Eishkom: Load shedding schedule](#)

Load Shedding for Wilderness & George May 2015: Click on the link below to take you to the May Load shedding Schedule. <http://www.georgeherald.com>, look for the "News" tab (2nd from left) and then "Load shedding". Look for the Load Shedding schedule that will be one of the articles listed here.

Or log onto www.wrra.co.za and click "[Load shedding](#)" 5th tab on the toolbar.

[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

PAWS REPORT BACK



On 22nd and 26th of June, armed with a dip bath, flea and tick powder(for puppies) and deworming tablets, Estelle le Roux began making inroads into the Kleinkranz squatter camp to help the community take better care of their dogs and cats.

Fantastically, Estelle was joined by well-known Wilderness fellowship member, Mattie Mesane, who works with children in underprivileged areas. While Mattie introduced the PAWS outreach to the community and wrote up the

client records, Estelle dipped and powdered 15 tick and flea infested pets, dewormed 7 dogs (for which the owners all paid!), and talked to animal owners about the new Animal Keeping By Law.

Surprisingly, most of the owners knew of the need to sterilize their pets before 1 September. So far 5 owners have requested their pets be 'fixed', but unfortunately only 4 can contribute R70 – whereas the SPCA's **cost** is around R270 per animal. At the end of June, only R100 had come into this project from WRRRA members (for which Estelle thanks the donors), which leaves a R1000 shortfall – so please partner PAWS by making a donation, THANK YOU! You will help ensure an over-population of unwanted puppies or kittens.

An old lady approached Estelle and Mattie in tears. She was leading an elderly dog by the scruff of its neck. It was almost blind and nearing its life's end. Other dogs were attacking it and it was unable to defend itself... she wanted it to die humanely. Thanks to Estelle and the SPCA it is now at peace.



We hope this report back will encourage more members to support this WRRRA initiative. Please make a donation or stop order to the WRRRA bank account: WRRRA, FNB, George Branch 210 11400, Account No: 522 900 767 13 using your NAME and 'PAWS' as reference.

Mattie admires a squatter camp kitten...she and the mother cat are on the sterilization list.

Useful Links

Simply click the link below:

Wilderness Residents and Ratepayers Association www.wrra.co.za

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

Municipal Problems.

Ratepayer's first port of call **must be** to the relevant authority that is responsible for the utility or function, (potholes, street lights etc) that is causing you the trouble. This would be the Municipality (George or Eden), Eskom, SAPS or SANRAL etc. The WRRRA can and will only consider taking up your cause if it is clear that you have made the effort to sort the issues out yourself and can supply the WRRRA with your correspondence and above all , a "case number" and date that the case was lodged.

Go to www.wrra.co.za ; see "Contacts" on the middle right side of the front page.
Click "**Municipal Contacts**".

If your efforts are not being fruitful, then by all means drop the WRRRA an email on wrra@tiscali.co.za , outlining the problem and what efforts you have already made to try and sort the issues out. But without a "case number" and relevant info, the WRRRA will not be able to take up your case. If the issue is one that the WRRRA are aware of, the WRRRA will contact you give advice and then possibly take up the fight on behalf of the ratepayers.

PROMINENTLY DISPLAY YOUR STAND NUMBER ON YOUR HOUSE.

Help SAPS and Emergency vehicles to find you.

This may well save a life !

Tourism News

The Executive Mayor of George, Mr. Charles Stander has awarded the WRRRA the sum of R20 000 to be used specifically by the WRRRA in promoting tourism for Wilderness/George tourism. This resulted from the WRRRA's positive interaction with the Mayor and his municipal team and the WRRRA's visibly successful efforts with the Wilderness Improvement Program and efforts to promote Wilderness as a premier tourism destination.

More details to follow.

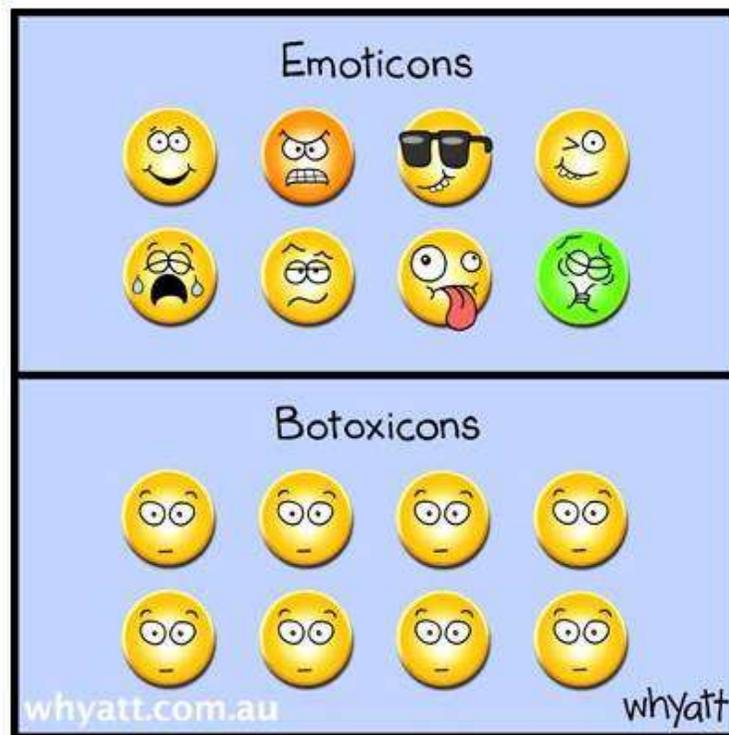


Neighbourhood Security : WHATSAPP Group success

Please take responsibility for our own street security.

Start your own street's WhatsApp Street Security Group.

Embrace Technology



Dog Ordinances

Why don't some people pick up their dog pooh?



The WRRRA Committee is actively working on draft proposals to address the issue of inconsiderate dog owners who are still not picking up their dog pooh. **Come on, get with the programme ! Let's keep our verges, pathways, the Common and our beautiful walks "Pooh Free".**

How difficult can this be ??

Not picking up and removing a dog's mess is irresponsible and disrespectful to all other street and beach users, residents and visitors and it's against the LAW !

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

<http://wrra.co.za/images/stories/PDF/Animals%20Bylaws/BYLAWS%20KEEPING%20OF%20DOGS%20AND%20CATS%20feb%202015%20%28English%29.pdf>

THE BLACK WATTLE BIOCONTROL AGENT:

Dasineura rubiformis

The release time for *Dasineura rubiformis* starts NOW !!! (July 2015)

It's a midge that prevents black wattle from setting seed. It has taken off like a rocket in

release sites and is fast becoming one of the most important aspects of black wattle control.

It would be great if we could get the midge firmly established in the Southern Cape so

please come and pick up some galls from the GRBG nursery. They will be delivered every

Monday and Wednesday for the next 3 weeks. It's easy to release (see instructions plus other info attached) and so effective it really is a crime NOT to do it.

And it is FREE !!!!

Instructions

RELEASE OF WATTLE BIOCONTROL AGENT

Dasineura rubiformis

1. Empty the bag of galls in the shade underneath a mature wattle tree
2. Ensure that there is not too much dust from passing traffic
3. Ensure that the tree will remain in place for 2 – 3 years from date of release
4. Take GPS co-ordinates of the release site and send to Fiona Impson at ImpsonF@arc.agric.za
5. If possible take photographs of the release site and note the surrounding vegetation, aspect and soil.

Queries :- Pam Booth 082 875 0342 pam@edentoaddo.co.za

Compiled by Mare Collett, Garden Route Botanical Garden, 49 Caledon Street, George
044 – 874 1558 / info@botanicalgarden.org.za

Distributed by WESSA Eden

wessageorge@isat.co.za



WESSA
PEOPLE CARING FOR THE EARTH

Are Rats killing our Owls?



This item was prompted by WRRRA member, Ulrike Niesler, who is distressed by reports of Wilderness owls being found dead. The likely cause is rats... or **rat poison** to be more specific!

According to Chemistry Professor Dr Gerhard Verdoon, (Director of BirdLife Africa and the Griffon Poison Information Centre), there is no such thing as an 'owl-friendly' rodent poison. But the *least*

harmful (and least risk of secondary poisoning to birds) is coumatetralyl (trade name Racumin, manufactured by Bayer CropScience).

Racumin is a first generation anti-coagulant and works on a 'multiple-feed' principle.

"The target animal has to ingest the product at least three days in succession before the toxin will manifest in toxic symptoms. It means that an owl that eats a dead rat has a very limited risk of suffering secondary poisoning." says Dr Verdoon. "Coumatetralyl is also rapidly metabolised

in the intestines of primary feeders (i.e. the rodents that are targeted) and therefore a predator will be exposed mainly to metabolites and not the mother compound. It also reduces the risk of secondary poisoning significantly.”

Wax blocks should be applied in home-made ‘bait stations’. Make two 35 mm holes on opposite sides of an empty plastic ice cream containers, place the blocks inside and press the lid closed. Your bait station should then be placed out in a secure spot where pets or non-target animals cannot get to it. The bait stations should be checked every four days and replenished if necessary.

(There is also Racumin paste that is highly effective against rats in particular but dangerous to domestic pets. The paste should only be used in roof spaces where there is no chance of non-target animals finding it.)

You can read Dr Verdoon’s full article on ‘Intergrated Rodent Management’ on this link:

<http://www.sareptiles.co.za/forum/viewtopic.php?f=49&t=15984>

One of the most eco-friendly mouse traps can be made by balancing a short length of PVC pipe on the lip of a tall bucket with about 10 cm water in the bucket. Provide a ramp that will allow a mouse to climb to the rim. Put a daub of peanut butter on the end of the PVC pipe balancing over the water. The mouse will try and walk along the pipe to get to the food... and find himself in the bucket! Take him on a LONG walk!



FOCUS IS ON OUR GOLDEN OLDIES



Your loyal and faithful dogs and cats often have geriatric related illnesses, often due to reduced organ function. Symptoms vary depending on which organ is affected, but usually one sees any number of the following complaints: a reduction in appetite, weight loss, an increased water intake, vomiting, diarrhea, urinary incontinence, exercise intolerance and/or a smelly breath.

If you find that your old friend has started with some of these symptoms, it is really important for us to check him/her. It is strongly recommend doing a screening geriatric blood profile to check the vital organs as so much can be picked up on this simple blood test. Sometimes the diagnosis can simply be made by listening to your animal’s heart (congestive heart failure) or requires some detective work involving x-rays, ultrasound, blood tests or surgery.

(With Thanks : Extract from Knysna Veterinary Clinic July Newsletter)

Upcoming Events in Wilderness



The meeting place of wine, food, entertainment, sport - and of course cheese! A weekend of culinary delights and fun for the whole family.

11 – 13 SEPTEMBER 2015

<http://www.wildernesscheesefestival.co.za>



THOUSAND SENSATIONS CRAFTED BEER AND FOOD FESTIVAL

18 – 19 SEPTEMBER 2015

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Thousand-Sensations/575843152502339>

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.**

Traffic Violations

This COULD happen in WILDERNESS



NON-STOP Sign Sanctuary Lane & Heights Road (behind Dr Vos)

ANY-WAY But ONE WAY LEILA'S LANE

BE WARNED: Traffic Enforcement will be conducting spot checks over the next few months.

Ignore Stop signs, One Way signs and Speed Limits at your PERIL. And there will be NO SYMPATHY !

Community Police Forum

WILDERNESS SECURITY POLICE FORUM : NEW MEETING VENUE in 2015 at The Views Boutique Hotel, Wilderness, Monday 27th July 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.

The Last Word:



“Wilderness the place to be”.

Having just returned from a brief trip to Johannesburg, I was reminded of how lucky we are to live in such a peaceful place. I guess that’s why 99% of us are indeed here.

But, one only has to experience the frustrations of what “real” load shedding can mean to those living in the major metros. The case in point was that on Tuesday evening at 5PM, Sandton CBD was without electricity for over 3 hours! Thanks to some firms in the area, a few of the major intersections have solar powered traffic lights but most are not. The net result was a 4km trip home took 55 minutes and more wear and tear on the nerves than one can imagine. It came as quite a surprise when the very next morning, the same area was again “un-plugged” for another 4 and a half hours! That’s two major outages in well under 24 hours! NOT FUNNY!

So while we do have our few hours without electricity, in general, we are still extremely fortunate.

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 and your email address will be removed from our mailing list immediately.