



Wilderness Ratepayers and
Wilderness, Western Cape,

wrra@tiscali.co.za

082 895 6317

www.wrra.co.za

Residents Association,
South Africa, 6560

WRRRA NEWSLETTER – October 2015



"Wilderness the place to be". Wilderness Beach –unknown photographer

NEW WRRRA BANK DETAILS :

[Please change the banking details to pay WRRRA to the following with immediate effect.](#)

Account Name : WRRRA / Bank : NEDBANK –Garden Route Mall / Branch Code : 153614 /

Account Number 1110522444 / Please use you Stand/erf Number and name as a reference to WRRRA

Wilderness Improvement Program and Services News

- **Wilderness Police Station Project.**

Please contact the WRRRA on wrra@tiscali.co.za if you are able to contribute in any way .

- Paul Nicholas has kindly donated and will install a kitchen sink and cupboard.
- The wall and gates are up and the roof painting is done.
- Part of the parking area has been paved and the entrance smoothed for traffic.
- We are looking at better signage for the station.
- We still need someone with a chain saw and some manual labourers.

Call Ian on 082 589 2661

- **Car Guards** :A reminder to all not to hand out money to vagrants as they are a problem in the village. We have the monitors and anyone wishing to give them a tip is welcome.

- **Train Tunnel.** Please be vigilant and aware of the risks of walking on your own. Go in a big group.

- **Leila Lane.** Inconsiderate drivers driving down the one way in Leila's Lane WILL be fined R1,500.

- **Beach Cleanup.** The job of "cleaning" the beach falls on SANParks and the Municipality through the Working for the Coast project of the Extended Public Works Program. At the IDP meeting held on 1st October, the issue regarding the tardy cleanup of the beaches was discussed with the head of PWD. There have been some budget constraints, but we were assured that there were plans afoot to find additional budget to clean up the beaches. The WRRRA Committee is monitoring the situation and is keeping the pressure on the Municipality to get the beaches cleaned up. Some progress has been made. Thanks to Lucy Rautenbach and others who have written to the Municipality asking for the beach to be cleaned up. Well done!

- **WRRRA Lectures.**

Nature Conservation in the Wilderness Section of the Garden Route National Park:

It's more than just a pretty beach!

The WRRRA will be hosting what we intend to be a series of public presentations on subjects of particular interest to Wilderness residents.

The first will be held on Tuesday 10 November at 7 pm in the Wilderness Hotel.

We will be hearing from Jonathan Britton about the Wilderness Section of the Garden Route National Park. As the Section Ranger, Jonathan is involved with the many conservation activities carried out by the Park. He'll be telling us about management of the indigenous forests; rehabilitating former state plantations; water catchment area management; the important and positive linkages among activities; initiatives on private land to support conservation efforts; stakeholder engagement strategies, and get this -- ***modern conservationists displaying polygamous behaviour as a survival mechanism managing the challenges of a National Park in an urban environment.***

With academic credentials in nature conservation, Jonathan started his career in the Cape Peninsula and the Boland Mountains. We have been fortunate to have him here in Wilderness for the last ten years, managing a number of initiatives: Working for Water and Working for Coast Programmes in the Garden Route; the Mountain Catchment Areas of the Outeniqua Mountains; Beervlei Indigenous Forests and more. Jonathan is currently in the Wilderness Lakes conservation office responsible for the management of the coast and estuarine lakes areas of the Wilderness and Sedgfield Areas.

Jonathan's presentation is open to the public at a nominal cost of R10. There will be an open cash bar available as well as coffee and tea. This will be an instructive and entertaining evening, and an opportunity to meet neighbours. Mark the date now, Tuesday 10 November. And pass this on to others who may be interested.

- **Sands Road: Obstruction of pavements.** Have you trimmed back the bushes along your property yet? Please take responsibility for your pavement and please clean up.
- **Parking in the Village.** The WRRRA is aware of the lack of parking in the village and therefore decided the present situation should remain with informal parking allowed on the south side of George Rd and along the common on Waterside Road. Please be aware of pedestrians when reversing out of the parking. Watch out particularly for children on the pedestrian walkways.
- **Potholes .** Please call the Municipal Roads & Engineering department directly, speak to Lionel Daniels on 044 801 9496 and report the pothole. Please remember to get a reference number. If there is no action after a week or so, please drop Sue Ledger an email quoting your reference number or write to wrra@tiscali.co.za and we will follow up.
- **Road surveys.** You will all have seen the survey activity on the roads in and around Wilderness. Plans are afoot to upgrade Heights Road and the footway alongside the road. But don't hold your breath. This will take a while ☺ ! The surveys being carried out on the N2 are for a resurfacing project that will be undertaken along almost the entire N2 through the Garden Route.
- **Waterpipes on Waterside Road.** The municipality is aware of the problem. There is a budget for replacement of water pipes. At the moment they are replacing pipes in Fernridge and will probably move to Glen Barry from there because of serious problems in that area. There are problems with pipe bursts all over George and Wilderness and the budget needs to be increased. This issue will be debated during the budget process that will start soon and be concluded in May next year. Waterside Rd is on the list but they are not presently in a position to give an exact date when replacement will commence there. The program is dependent on the available funding. The other reality is that the burst pipe frequency tends to change with time. The Municipality monitors the number of bursts on a continuous basis and tries to prioritize the most serious areas.

- Precious Tree Project.** The Precious Tree Project concentrates on creating patches of forest, by planting indigenous and endemic Forest Trees in The Garden Route. The Garden Route, although lush with vegetation has only 30% of its indigenous forest left. The initial goal of The Precious Tree Project is to plant 1000 Trees in the Wilderness area, thereafter we aim to expand our operation to many more thousands of trees in the Garden Route and beyond. Please have a look at the “**Special Features**” section on the www.wrra.co.za website and on <http://www.facebook.com/precioustreeproject> or contact Jacobus Rabie on 1000precioustrees@gmail.com or 082 862 1326.



- Waterside Derelict Garage:** George Municipality Legal Services are pursuing the matter of the derelict garage on Waterside Road. Stay tuned.
- Wilderness Dune Erosion Control :** The authorities are in the process of addressing beach erosion and dune stabilisation measures for the entire stretch of beach in Wilderness. The bottom line is that there is a process to deal with this and that it is funded by the property owner and not the Municipality or SANPARKS. The WRRRA committee is staying in touch with the relevant authorities and will report progress as we are informed.

Have you ordered your Visions of Wilderness 2016 Calendars?

With some people ordering 10 copies for Christmas gifts, secure yours soon! To place your order, simply email WRRRA Secretary, Vanessa at wrra@tiscali.co.za with your proof of payment of R50 per calendar made to the WRRRA bank account.

The A4 calendars will be available by early December. Only 300 will be printed.

Over 300 stunning photos were received, but obviously not all of them could be used!

Please use you Stand Number and your name as a reference to WRRRA



DECEMBER SECURITY INITIATIVE

As with last year, SAPS have asked if we can fund additional security for the village. W/O Bennie Boshoff has highlighted Peak Security Days as 25th, 26th December and 1st of January. To prevent petty theft in and around the Village, especially parking areas, SAPS will need extra security personnel to be available. W/O Boshoff has correctly trained and equipped staff available, but there is a cost attached. The WRRRA can absorb some of this cost, but we again appeal to you all to please make a contribution towards this Holiday Security Fund. We will ALL benefit out of the extra security over this busy time. We need to raise R6,000 by 1st December in order to implement this initiative.



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© Car Stock Photo - esp/7343801

Please bank your contributions directly into the **NEW** WRRRA bank account, reference "Security Fund".

**Account Name : WRRRA / Bank : NEDBANK –Garden Route Mall / Branch
Code : 153614 /**

Account Number 1110522444 / Reference: Security Fund

- **General Information**

- **Rubbish and Recycling Collection Holiday Schedule.** 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 however the public holiday falls on a Friday, rubbish and recycling will be collected on the Thursday before the holiday. **Ideally black bags are collected by the municipal rubbish truck and blue bags by the recycling company. If this is not happening, please let the Municipality know.**
- **Rubbish Black Bags:** The Municipality distributes packs of 26 black bags every three months. Call Wessel Robertson at 044 802 2904 at the Municipality.
- **Recycling Blue Bags:** InterWaste distributes a blue bag for every blue bag they collect, on the day of collection. Kirsty Hofhuis at 044 878 0688 at InterWaste.
- **RECYCLING BIN FOR BULBS/BATTERIES: UPDATE :** Interwaste evidently has the bin but Spar are awaiting permission from Spar Head Office before they can place it.
- **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. Relevant contact numbers on the website. Obtain a "case number" and date that the case was lodged.

http://wrra.co.za/images/stories/PDF/Contacts/Municipal_Contacts.pdf

Garden Route Poachers are trapping animals –BEWARE and BE AWARE

A slow death in a snare is one of the cruellest. Sadly this practice is widespread, and difficult to monitor. The poachers come and go in the night, and it is hard to catch them. The latest area where these snares have been found is **WILDERNESS HEIGHTS**.

If you live on a small holding, near forest or natural area, please regularly inspect your fences regularly for snares of all types. Safely remove any snares that you find. Every one removed is a life saved.



Snare Trap

The simple wire loop snare is the most commonly used one. It is usually placed in a fence or between two branches on a game path. The animals put their heads through the loop as they graze or walk. The loop tightens around its neck so the unfortunate animal is unable to free itself. It could die slowly if the poacher does not return soon, but either way, it faces a terrible death. Wild animals seldom cry out, so rescue is not likely. Sadly, once a buck has been trapped this way, it becomes so stressed that it usually dies anyway, even if it is set free, and this is an equally terrible end. Target animals get caught this way, but monkeys, dogs, cats, and other animals get caught just as regularly. People out of town often lose their pets, and it is believed that this could be easily be the reason for their disappearance.

Then there is the vicious spiked gin trap, which grips and digs into the foot or leg of an animal stepping into it. Sometimes these poor creatures desperately bite off their own feet in order to escape, and then an infection almost always set in, again resulting in a slow and agonising death.



Anyone caught setting a snare will be prosecuted by the SPCA under the Animals Protection Act.

BE AWARE OF THE PROBLEM. Keep your eye on your pets and do not let them out of your property alone. Keep in touch with your neighbours if you find snares, and try to work together with them. If you find a trapped animal call Nature Conservation Call Tel: (044) 802 and the SPCA (044)878 1990 immediately.

Left: Gin Trap

PAWS : WANTED: ANY OLD KENNELS



PAWS desperately needs some old kennels (in any state!) for the dogs in Kleinkrantz that are currently sleeping outside with no shelter from rain, sun or cold. Please give Estelle Le Roux a call on 083 292 1190 and she will happily pick up any old kennel that you no longer need and are prepared to donate.

PAWS (Partnering Animal Welfare Services) helps the SPCA and PDSA in Kleinkrantz by educating animal owners on how to take better care of their pets including having them vaccinated, dewormed and sterilized. Donations can be made to the WRRRA bank account stating PAWS as the reference.

- **Garden Route Biosphere Reserve**

What Can You Do?

- Participate
- Send us information about the area, the culture, the history, the geology, spatial information that we can use in the application to UNESCO that describes how special the Garden Route is
- WE NEED 2 "WET INK" (ORIGINAL) LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO INCLUDE IN OUR APPLICATION FROM INDIVIDUALS, ORGANISATIONS, MUNICIPALITIES, ETC.

What's Next?

- Completion of the mapping
- Compilation of the application
- Strategy development workshops (November 2015)
- Draft application for review (end January 2016)
- Submission to UNESCO in July 2016

CONTACT DETAILS:

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Londeka Phetha:
lphetha@environment.gov.za
044 803 1515 / 071 615 7084

Simon Sam:
073 580 7988

Mary Jane Waite:
mj@atthesource.co.za / 072 223 9911

Julie Carlisle:
ecovive@mweb.co.za / 082 322 2209

Garden Route Biosphere Reserve
PO Box 71
Wittedrift
6603

www.grbr.org.za

SEE FULL ARTICLE ON www.wrra.co.za under "Featured Articles"

First George Municipal Development Plan presentation 1st October 2015 Feedback.

The George municipality gave an interesting and informative feedback session on the Municipal Development Plan. The meeting was held at the Wilderness Hotel and a formidable contingent of municipal officials were present. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for us, the community, to participate in the annual review, to provide feedback on current and future IDP projects and to provide an opportunity for inputs to the 2016/17 Budget. Sadly the meeting was poorly attended by ratepayers. Thank you to those that did participate and raised some pertinent issues. In particular, thank you to Charles Scott for his input. A copy of the presentation is available on www.wrra.co.za.

Need something to do???

George Open Gardens Day – 7 November

Make a note in your diary – more details next Newsletter.
For those who visited our just-started conversion to fynbos last year ...come and see what it looks like now!
www.facebook.com/GardenRouteGardens



Kammanassie Geology Tour – 28 November

Our geologists are champing at the bit for another geology tour– and many of our readers too! So we are off on the Kammanassie Circuit again. An all day, self-drive guided tour starting in de Rust and.

Three expert geologists, **Paul Rixom, Peter Ginn and Colin Ralston**

will lead a small groups of about 20 participants. A full daytrip, commencing in de Rust, the route basically circumnavigates the Kammanassie Mountains which lie between the Swartberg to the north and the Outeniquas to the south moving east towards Uniondale, south to the Langkloof and ending just before Herold. It is definitely a case of roadside-geology, mostly driving with stops at geological features en route.

R 100 for WESSA members (students and pensioners too),

R 120 for non-members is for our Enviro & Education Fund. The geologists contribute their time and expertise at no charge.

Bookings now open..... wessageorge@isat.co.za



+ Plantverkoop / Plant Sale
SAT. 14 NOVEMBER
SUN. 15 NOVEMBER
09:00 - 16:00

Visit a choice of Hoekwil Town and Farm Gardens.
Besook 'n keur van Hoekwil se Dorps- en Plaastuine.

Toegang na alle tuine oor die 2 dae
Entrance to all the gardens over the 2 days
R30 p.p.

Tickets, Entrance Slips & Maps available at
Kaartjies, Toegangslapies & Kaartjies
 beskikbaar by:
OPEN GARDENS KIOSK
of Hoekwil Post Office

Enquiries/Navrae: BIGGI 003 453 3089; DALENE 082 561 4784

TOURISM

Falling rand brings challenges for South African Tourism



According to CEO Thulani Nzima of South African Tourism (SAT), less buying power due to the weakening rand has probably resulted in a loss of over R300m in international marketing funds for SAT. Nzima explained at the 45th annual general assembly of the Airline Association of Southern Africa (Aasa):

So **perhaps this provides an opportunity** for Wilderness tourist oriented businesses to work together to create a “Destination Wilderness” strategy ? A strategy that is in keeping with the WRRRA ethos. Please give this some thought and drop an email to Chris Boshoff at wrra@tiscali.co.za . The internet has changed the travel industry. Have a look at www.wetu.co.za. Some really great new interactive tools that can be used to spice up your website.

Eishkom: Load shedding schedule

SEE FULL LOADSHEDDING SCHEDULE ON www.wrra.co.za under “Loadshedding”

You will find this in the Top Tool Bar on the website, fifth icon from the “Home” icon.

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

At the IDP meeting, we were advised that the Go George roll-out to Wilderness would **not be before the first quarter of 2016**. This was primarily due to the sabotage and unrest in recent months.

Watch the Press for details

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>

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.

Neighbourhood Security : WHATSAPP Group success



Does your Street have a WHATSAPP Group Yet ??

Please take responsibility for our own street security.

Start your own street's WhatsApp Street Security Group.

If you live in Wilderness East.

Please join 'WECAN' Wilderness East's WHATSAPP GROUP

To join, "WhatsApp" your cell number to Estelle 083 292 1190 with your property number.

Community Police Forum

WILDERNESS SECURITY POLICE FORUM : NEW MEETING VENUE in 2015 at The Views Boutique Hotel, Wilderness, Monday 26th October 2015 at 17h30. Please attend. This is in all of our interest.

WILDERNESS VILLAGE MONITORS

THE VILLAGE MONITORS, IDENTIFIED BY THEIR UNIFORMS AND BRIGHT YELLOW CAPS, ARE HERE FOR YOUR SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SUPPORT THEM IF YOU SO WISH.

PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THE LOCAL SELF-APPOINTED CAR GUARDS. THEY ARE A NUISANCE AND HAVE LED TO THEFTS FROM CARS, SNATCHING OF SHOPPING ETC.

HELPING TO MAKE WILDERNESS CLEAN, SAFE & FRIENDLY



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. Send 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.

Embrace Technology



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

SAPIA News : Plant Protection Research Institute

Newsletter of the Southern African Plant Invaders Atlas, an initiative of the Weeds Programme of the Plant Protection Research Institute, within the Agricultural Research Council (ARC)

SAPIA newsletters are posted at ARC website: www.arc.agric.za and

Invasive Species Website: www.invasives.co.za

The Last Word:



There is quite a buzz around as many of our “swallows” are returning to Wilderness for summer. Well, I’m still not convinced that summer is here but judging by the weather this last week, it’s certainly not far off now. So, welcome home to all our “swallows” and enjoy your time in sunny SA.

It won’t be long and the season will be upon us but that doesn’t give us here at WRRRA a chance to relax. In fact only just this last week a “nasty” that we had to deal with in 2013 has reared its head again. In 2013 there was a proposal from Knysna Municipality (!?!) to open a composting, recycling and crushing plant in one of the disused sand quarries very close to Timberlake – within the municipal boundary of George. At the time, some forty-odd interested and affected parties (including George Municipality and SANParks) objected to this for a variety of reasons, not least of which is that this is in the Outeniqua Coastal Sensitive Area but also within the Wilderness Lakes Area. It is acknowledged that our side of George could do with a garden refuse dump to help with the illegal dumping of garden rubbish. However, rubbish recycling and crushing of builders rubble from another municipality and on such a sensitive area warrants the strongest opposition – especially now that we have learned that the license for this operation has been granted by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning; Directorate Waste Management. We will be participating with other stakeholders to lodge an appeal.

Congratulations to George Municipality on the official opening of the George Integrated Public Transport Network or GO George as we now know it. This achievement has not been easy and we look forward to the rollout of the network to all areas, understanding fully that Rome wasn’t built in a day. Our road infrastructure still needs upgrading before the Wilderness section can be implemented and of course a lot of these roads are the responsibility of Eden District Municipality. So, don’t hold your breath, but remain supportive of those who are trying to achieve this for our community.

I’m sure you will all agree with me when I shout “**Go Bokke!**”

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.