

Wilderness Ratepayers and
Wilderness, Western Cape,

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www.wrra.co.za

Residents Association,
South Africa, 6560

WRRRA NEWSLETTER – January 2016



"Wilderness the place to be". Wilderness – picture Courtesy Travelite

2016 WRRRA Subs are due now.

2016 Subs are R150 per member, please use the new bank account:

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

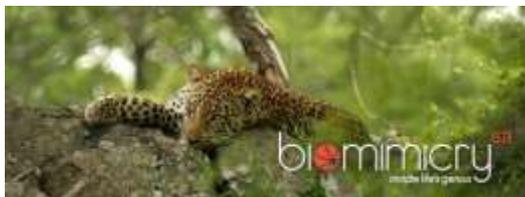
Account Number 1110522444 / Please use you Stand/erf Number and name as a reference to WRRRA

Heads Up !!!: WRRRA AGM will be held on Wednesday, 17th February

A formal Notice will be sent out in due course.

Wilderness Improvement Program and Services News

- **Thank you George Municipality:** Our WRRRA Chairman Neville sent a letter to the George Municipality on behalf of us all here in Wilderness to pass on our sincere appreciation for the outstanding support that Wilderness received from the various George Municipality officials and departments over the recent Festive Season.
- **Erf 2486: Proposed flats and shops in George Rd:** The public has until 25th January 2016 to submit comment regarding the proposed development of two blocks of flats with a business component on erf 2486 in George Road, opposite the Wilderness Hotel. The WRRRA committee has made a submission voicing their concerns regarding this development. Follow this link for the full article as it was published in the George Herald on 7th January 2016.
<http://www.georgeherald.com/news/News/General/154823/Development-application-sparks-concern>
- **Wilderness Police Station Project:** As mentioned in previous newsletters, there is still some work to be done at our Village SAPS office. We will have an update in our February Newsletter.
- **N2 SANRAL Upgrade Project:** The committee has written to SANRAL on behalf of the WRRRA with feedback from ratepayers and residents regarding the soon to be implemented N2 Project. Some of the key points raised are: Signage issues, “No Airbrakes” on the downhill into Wilderness, sign pollution on the new circle, the dangerous intersection on the N2 at the entrance to N2/Wilderness/George Rd. and at N2/Salinas/NSRI/10th Ave, N2/Grants Ave (8th Ave), the need for security and lighting at both Dolphin Point parking area, the dangerous N2 road shoulders between Kleinkrantz and Grants Avenue and the need for acceleration lanes at all our Wilderness/N2 intersections. We will keep you posted. Thanks to all of you who took the trouble to respond to our request for ideas on the proposed upgrade.
- **No Renewal Notices for George motor vehicle licence discs:** Motorists in George and the rest of the Western Cape are advised that renewal notices for motor vehicle licences will not be sent via the South African Post Office. When you do go to renew your licence, you **MUST** now take proof of residence and proof of postal address in order to fulfill the newly imposed FICA requirements. If you are renewing a licence for your spouse or partner, you will need a letter from that person authorizing you to apply on their behalf and you will need a copy of either their ID or drivers licence. Good luck! Call 044 801 9311/044 801 9310 for more info.
- **WRRRA Lectures: Introduction to Nature's Genius and the Practice of Biomimicry**



The Wilderness Ratepayers and Residents Association will be hosting the second in our series of public presentations on subjects of particular interest to Wilderness residents. On Wednesday 3rd February, 6:30 for 7:00 pm, at the Wilderness Hotel, Sue Swain will tell us the fascinating story of biomimicry. Biomimicry is learning from nature's models,

processes and systems to solve our human design and sustainability challenges. Have you heard about the UCT student who studied the cheetah tail and how it enables the cheetah to maintain stability at high speed? He then designed a prototype for an improved search and rescue robot able to maintain stability in uneven territory. And then there's Velcro, first inspired by how burrs stick to animal fur and now a common product in daily use. Sue will tell us these stories and many others that show how Nature is leading us to new approaches to old dilemmas – innovation taught by Nature.

Sue studied and has worked in conservation for 27 years, having run an environmental education centre at Cape Point, pursued social ecology at Addo Elephant Park, and managed Working for Water projects in Port Elizabeth. Locally, she carried out stewardship work for SANParks here in the Garden Route from 2007 to 2009. She has immersed herself in the field of biomimicry since 2006. Sue's non-profit company, BioWise, promotes the practice of biomimicry and intends to establish a biomimicry discovery park in the Garden Route.

Sue's presentation is open to the public at a nominal charge of R10. There will be an open cash bar available. This will be an instructive and entertaining evening, as well as a good opportunity to meet neighbours. Mark the date now.

<http://biomimicrysa.co.za/projects/projects-overview/knysna>

Wednesday 3rd February, 6:30 for 7:00 pm, Wilderness Hotel.

And please take a moment to pass this on to others who may be interested.

When : Wednesday 3rd February 2016 : Time 6:30 for 7 pm; end no later than 9 pm :

Where : Wilderness Hotel, Wilderness : Cash bar available

- **Blue Flag Status:** The Blue Flag re-application to have Wilderness Beach regraded is in process and we hope to soon report that the beach is once again rated as a Blue Flag beach.
- **Waterside Derelict Garage:** Still a mess. We will try to get an update on what is happening here and report back in February.
- **Wilderness Heights:** Nothing to report at this stage.
- **Road upgrading/resurfacing:** The Municipality has advised that it will soon begin the resurfacing of the following roads in Wilderness: 3rd, 6th and 7th.
- **Services:** 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

- **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>



- **Safety and Security:**

- The generous donations by ratepayers and residents towards the WRRRA December Security Initiative run by WRRRA committee member Ian van Rooyen , helped make this last December and January one of the safest and most crime free yearends that Wilderness has enjoyed in a long time. Well done everyone involved.
- December was again a very busy season but we appear to have had a relatively quiet season crime wise. There were a few reported incidents of car break-ins as well as two instances of overseas visitors being robbed of cameras, cell phones etc.
- Additional monitors were appointed over December which paid dividends and we hope to do this again for the next December season. Although they are not security guards, their presence and patrolling with their yellow caps and jackets does make a big difference.
- Both SAPS and Law Enforcement were very visible both in the village and down Sands Road. This no doubt contributed to the very low crime rate over the holiday season. Many thanks to Commander Bennie Boshoff and his SAPS team and to the Law Enforcement officials that kept us all safe over the holidays. They all did a sterling job.
- It is a pity that some visitors ignored the recently erected danger signs on the Kaaimans railway line warning of the danger of hiking this area on their own. Please advise your guests **NOT** to go hiking along the railway line bridge unless they are in a large group.

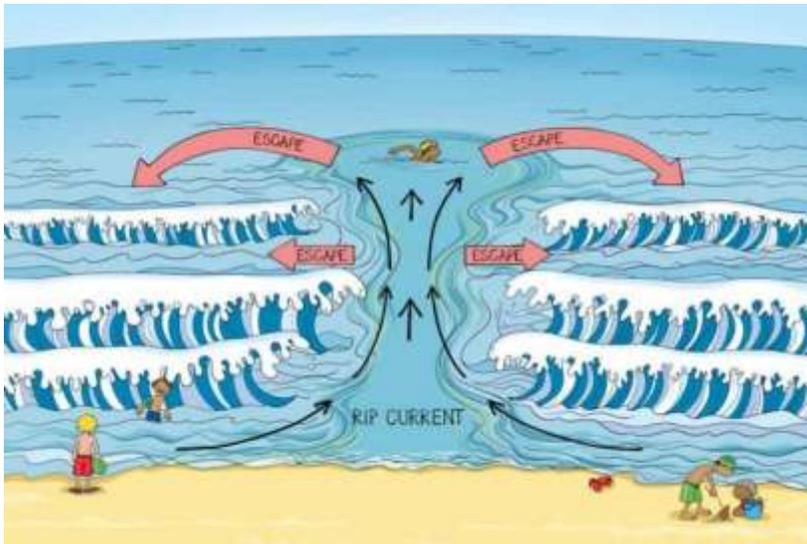
[GIPTN: Go George](#)

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



- **Yahooo !!!!** A trial training route has been implemented and there is progress with the roll-out of the service to Wilderness.
 - At this stage, the busses will only be going as far as 8th Avenue. Not yet planned to go to Wilderness Heights or Touwsrante. But safe and efficient public transport will soon become a reality for Wilderness 😊 !
 - Go George Contact Person is James Rob 072 235 8585
- Watch the Press for details**

• **RIP CURRENTS : What to do**



Rip currents can clearly be seen on our coastline. When going into the water, avoid areas where the waves are not breaking as that could be due to a rip current.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARE IN A RIP CURRENT: DO NOT panic. Simply stay afloat by treading water (moving your arms and legs in circular movements).

The sketch shows how to escape from a rip current.

DO NOT try to swim against the current as it will only cause you exhaustion and let the current sweep you out to sea.

At your first opportunity swim parallel to the beach front until you are free of the rip current and then use the incoming waves to get back to shore.

While this is happening scream for help and wave your arm to alert people on the beach to raise the alarm.

PROMINENTLY DISPLAY YOUR STAND NUMBER ON YOUR HOUSE.

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

**Visions of Wilderness
2016 Calendars.
There are still some 2016 calendars available.
Please call and collect from Vanessa.**

Call her on 082 895 6317



Wilderness is Expecting...



On a late afternoon during the January heatwave, a very large (Leopard?) tortoise lumbered up a Wilderness road only coming to rest on the verge of a fairly busy intersection. Concerned for its safety a nearby resident offered to transport it 150 metres down the road to the safety of the undeveloped area where it had been spotted on several occasions.

When the resident went to pick up the tortoise – she was busy laying eggs!

Neighbours started to gather and respectfully watched this rare occurrence. Having laid a few eggs in a scoop and covering the clutch with a little soil, the tortoise considered her 'motherly duty' done and moved off. Showing more parental care than the mother, the neighbours quickly erected a perfect protective fence (with holes big enough for the babies to walk through when they hatch) and a little sign reading "PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB! MIRACLE OF NEW LIFE IN PROGRESS!"

The following morning, mom was seen plodding back to her home territory.

Although the 'nest' is being checked regularly by all the expectant mothers and fathers down the street, if we are lucky enough to see a hatchling it might only be 10-15 months time! Hatchlings weigh 23 - 50 g and measure 40 - 50 mm.

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 WRRRA has undertaken to arrange a series of public presentations on subjects of particular interest to Wilderness residents. Watch for details in our newsletters and sms.

Community Police Forum

WILDERNESS SECURITY POLICE FORUM: NEW MEETING VENUE in 2015 at The Views Boutique Hotel, Wilderness, Monday 25th January 2016 at 17h30. Please attend. This is in all of our interest.

Security and Safety issues

- Please Report Crimes. Assists SAPS in seeing patterns and recognising modus operandi.
- Theft from Cars. Keep your valuables hidden in the boot.
- Remote blocking on the increase, especially malls, large parking areas. Even here in Wilderness.
- Keep your car doors locked when driving, especially in George.

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 Bee Removal : Nick Kolberg 083 262 5934

Snake Removal : Hennie 082 972 2232 or Nick 083 262 5934 or Gerhard 076 777 3909

Pothole Repair : Lionel Daniels 044 801 9496

- **Report any suspicious looking individuals or activities you may see in our community.**

Embrace Technology



Neighbourhood Security: WHATSAPP Group success



Does your Street have a WHATSAPP Group Yet ??

Take responsibility. Start your street's WhatsApp Street Security Group.

If you live

On Constantia Kloof	Join ConsKloofSecurity	SMS Donald	083 251 8401
On Sands Road	Join SandsRoadSecurity	SMS Lucy	076 903 0257
On Wilderness Heights	Join HeightsWatch	SMS Roy	082 060 7474
In Wilderness East	Join 'WECAN' Wilderness	SMS Estelle	083 292 1190
In Kingfisher Close	Join KingfisherWatch	SMS Peter	082 552 1060

Contact your streets **ADMINISTRATOR** and join your street's Security WhatsApp Group.

Please send the name and cell number of your streets Security WhatsApp Group administrator to wrra@tiscali.co.za to add to this list of administrators.

If your street does not yet have s WhatsApp Security Group,

WHY NOT !!!! Your security starts with YOU!!!!

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. **Chip your Pets:** Responsible pet owners have their pets chipped at the Vet. This is the easiest way to reunite pets that have wandered off to their families. It is an easy and painless procedure that can be done at your local vet.
5. **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.

Also living in Wilderness: *Suni antelope, spotted on the Kingfisher Trail last week. Suni*



(*Neotragus moschatus*) is a very small species of [antelope](#). It occurs in south-east [Africa](#) in dense underbrush. Suni feed on leaves, fungi, fruits and flowers, and need almost no free water. They are shy, most active at night, and sleep during the day in a shady, sheltered area. They are social but males defend a territory of about 3 hectares. They scent-mark the boundaries with secretions from their [preorbital glands](#). There may be an individual or communal dung pile on the periphery of the territory. A male usually takes one mate, but other females may share his territory. A single calf is born weighing about two pounds, after a [gestation](#) of 183 days. [Lions](#), [birds of prey](#), [snakes](#), and other meat-eaters prey on Suni. For protection,

they are well [camouflaged](#) in dry grass and keep very still. When a predator is almost on top of them, they spring out and bound away into the underbrush.

The Last Word:



PHEW! We made it!!!

Well the holiday season has come and largely gone and most of the friends and family have returned. Did I hear someone say "Thank heavens!""?? It was a bumper season and made all the more wonderful as I think we had the best weather ever. I don't think I've ever seen so many people and cars in the village before.

Your association helped to ensure that we all had a great time and even though there were small “glitches” here and there, the overall impression remains that Wilderness is THE place to be! I guess that by making Wilderness so attractive, it’s no wonder that there wasn’t an empty bed in town. In fact, the Wilderness Hotel went from 8 000 bed days last season to 11 000 this season! All this “good stuff” puts an enormous amount of pressure on things we take for granted. It would be remiss of me not to thank our municipal officials for all the “extras” that they provided, including very visible law enforcement, traffic control, additional waste bins and removal etc, not forgetting the major water pipe burst in front of the hotel that was repaired in record time. Well done to them. The beaches were cleaned very quickly after each of the festivities and there was an enormous decrease in fireworks on New Year’s Eve.

Through some generous donations, we were able to provide additional security at all entry points to the beach as well as supporting the car guards at the Leentjiesklip car park and along Sands Rd. An extra village monitor was employed to chaperone visitors to and from the Caltex subway, over the railway line and on to Sands Rd. I cannot thank you enough for making this possible. Also a big thank-you to the municipality for organising funding through the Extended Public Works Program to clear the bush that made this area so unsafe. Unfortunately, our repeated requests to Transnet to look after their property seems to fall on deaf ears. I believe that it is this “for the common good” and “cooperative spirit” that sets Wilderness apart from most other towns in SA.

Unfortunately, there are some of our holiday home owners who have expected to return to Wilderness over this period for a peaceful holiday. The negative SA economy just makes local travel more attractive and I do not foresee the two weeks of the peak season ever returning to being “peaceful” – the influx of holiday makers and tourists is integral to keeping the Wilderness economy sustainable for the entire year.

Despite the influx of permanent residents to George and the avalanche of visitors that descended on Wilderness, our water resources have not been under any pressure and we appreciate the forethought and planning that will see the raising of the Garden Route Dam wall to help ensure that our water supply is not compromised for years to come. We have also received very welcome news that the replacement of water pipes on Waterside Rd will be carried out within the next few months as will the resurfacing of many of the arterial roads, including 3rd Avenue.

Here’s wishing you all a great year ahead and I look forward to seeing many of you at our AGM in February.

Until then, take care

Neville

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 wrrra@tiscali.co.za end your email address will be remove from our mailing list immediately.