



Wilderness Ratepayers and
Wilderness, Western Cape,

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Residents Association,
South Africa, 6560

WRRRA NEWSLETTER – February 2016



"Wilderness the place to be". Wilderness –Knysna Turaco in the rain.

Courtesy Ettienne Van Niekerk Colourful Birds of Southern Africa 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

Wilderness Improvement Program and Services News

- **SGM & AGM:** The WRRRA 2016 AGM and a SGM were successfully concluded at on 17th February 2016. About 50 WRRRA members attended the meeting. Past WRRRA Chairman Don Cameron kept the Committee on their toes with many questions which were all satisfactorily answered. All the items on the Agenda were covered and afterwards we all shared a glass of wine and good old fashioned Wilderness fellowship. Thank you to all those who attended the meeting.
- **Erf 2486: Proposed flats and shops in George Rd:** No further communication has been received with regard to the proposed development on Erf 2486. The WRRRA will advise as soon as we have been informed of developments by the authorities.
- **Erf 329, Wilderness Heights:** WRRRA holds the view that the current conditions in which the people of Erf 329 find themselves is unacceptable – poverty, crime and grime are the order of the day. Recently, after an engagement with the Western Cape Provincial Government officials, we are assured that this problem will be addressed - we just don't know when and how. In the interim, WRRRA is continuing to engage the various stakeholders in order to find a solution that best meets the needs of all who are affected. Time will tell.
- **Water Pipes Replacement:** Slow but steady progress. Here is a picture of progress in Sanctuary Lane; old water pipes are being replaced!



- **Wilderness Police Station Project:** As mentioned in previous newsletters, there is still some work to be done at our Village SAPS office. To be advised in next Newsletter.
- **Rates Accounts:** Not getting your monthly rates account from the Municipality? The Municipality has confirmed that there was a problem with emailed statements in January and February, but this problem has been resolved. If you do not receive your statement by 10th of the month, simply send an email to Accounts@george.org.za , quote your George Municipality Account Number and ask that you be resend your monthly statement.
- **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:** “When Wilderness was Truly Wild’, a talk by Hugo Leggat, 16th March, 18h30 for 19h00, Wilderness Hotel & Spa. **See full details further on in this Newsletter.**
- **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:** This property has been recently purchased and the WRRRA understands that the property will be developed by the new owner.
- **Road upgrading/resurfacing:** The Municipality has advised that it will soon begin the resurfacing of the following roads in Wilderness: 3rd, 6th and 7th. Some roads in Wilderness Village have already received attention.
- **N2 Upgrading Project:** The Municipality has responded to suggestions that WRRRA put forward on behalf of the members. Some highlights: ** The Municipality is currently investigating options for the redesign of the Wilderness/George Rd intersection with a circle being an option should it be able to fit in. The Municipality has a 2017 area construction project which is currently in design, planned for this area. Public meetings for public input to be held later this year. * The possibility of creating a holding intersection at the Salinas corner will be discussed. * As a temporary measure, the road markings at N2/ Grants Ave/8th Ave intersection will be changed to make a passing lane at that intersection. This will also be addressed in the 2017 construction project. **
- **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
- **Safety and Security:**



Sadly, besides the victims’ traumatic experiences, Wilderness has borne the brunt of the bad press over the mugging incidents that have occurred in the last few months. The WRRRA has been assured that SAPS has been very active trying to catch the perpetrators and have set traps, but it is easier said than done. Obviously these criminals know when and where to attack and the police cannot be all along the railway track at all times. New sign boards have been erected and the police patrol as often as possible but the criminals wait for the first opportunity to rob visitors.

PLEASE, PLEASE be aware of the risk you are taking by hiking along the line on your own on the railway line and **PLEASE** warn your guests and visitors.

- **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>



Interesting websites

WESSA received an enquiry about Manatoka which they then googled....and an extremely informative page popped up focussing on the three most detrimental species which are currently, or have taken over the southern coast of Africa: the famous Rooikrans *Acacia cyclops*, and two other species which deserve much more publicity than they have received to date, namely Marram grass *Ammophila arenaria* and Manatoka *Myoporum tenuifolium* subs. *Montanum* on the Fransmanshoek Conservancy website. Wayne Meyer, Ranger at Fransmanshoek posted this in 2007, so the status may have changed with more recent legislation.

http://boggomsbaai.co.za/Alien_Vegetation.htm



Manatoka leaf with the prominent mid-vein and some of the small white flowers

This is not environmental – but certainly local. See the George Municipality website and look on the home page for a coffee table book on why George is the Gateway to the Garden Route and which can be viewed online. <http://www.fullcirclepublic.co.za/george/index.html>

Video: The Garden Route (1960) by William Smith

This is a great Video of the Garden Route produced by William Smith and features some amazing scenes of the Garden Route and Wilderness features prominently. Thanks to Lucy Rautenbach for sending this link through for WRRRA Newsletter .(NB Uses 140mb !)

<http://www.plett-tourism.co.za/news/video-garden-route-1960-william-smith>

6.30 for 7.00pm WED 16 MARCH

When Wilderness was truly WILD!



Come hear this fascinating story of Wilderness from the days of wagons fording the Kaaimans River to the arrival of the first roads, bridges and steam trains. Through **70 photographs**, see how the village developed - homesteads, cottages, the post office and hotel - all the while striving to hold onto the natural wild character that we all love.

Speaker, **Hugo Leggatt**, has made presentations at the Botanical Gardens and at a Sustainable Development conference at NMMU. He is currently writing a book on the history of Wilderness.

EVERYONE WELCOME ENTRANCE R10 at the door
Wilderness Hotel & Spa Cash bar

Organised by WRRRA (To become a member, go to www.wrra.co.za)

- [GIPTN: Go George](#)

Visit the website for more information

www.gogeorge.org.za

- The prime purpose of the Go George bus service is to ensure mobility / public transport for all sectors of the population to obtain access to the economy and amenities.
- The Ward 4 roll-out will cover Kleinkrantz, Touwsrante and Wilderness Heights at the extremities with Wilderness as the hub. This means that 8th Avenue / Wilderness East will be included on the route to Kleinkrantz.
- The Phase 4 roll-out for the greater Conville, Parkdene and Thembaletu areas is next on the list and will double the present system from an average 11,000 passenger trips per day to 22,000. The success to date is such that the planning indicates a shortage of buses based on the original plan. Negotiations are taking place to see if we can lease in buses from City of Cape Town / My Citi until we receive additional buses.
- **After this phase, it will be the turn of Wilderness. Hopefully by April / May.**



- Go George Contact Person is James Rob 072 235 8585

Watch the Press for details

NEW SPEED SIGNS... but will they help?

Several new speed signs have been erected around the Village.



The newly surfaced section of **Third Avenue** and **Lake Road** have long had a **30 km** speed limit but unfortunately this is often ignored - especially by those driving towards the **George Lakes Yacht Club**. Residents along the dirt section of Lake Road are battling with constant dust in their homes and are appealing to Yacht Club members and other users of

this section to keep to the 30km limit which will help!

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 29th February 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.**

- [What you need to know about the protection of natural forests and protected trees on private properties :](#)

[\(Read the full article on this complex and emotional issue\)](#)

http://www.nda.agric.za/doaDev/sideMenu/ForestryWeb/webapp/Documents/forest_protectedtreespamphlet.pdf?action=search&searchType=advanced&category=report

CERTAIN TREE SPECIES ARE PROTECTED

A list of 47 tree species have been declared as protected under the National Forests Act of 1998, (Act No. 84 of 1998). No such trees may be cut without a licence under section 15 of this Act. Trees such as white or red milkwood are forest species that sometimes occur outside forests and are listed as protected tree species. Cutting or pruning also requires a licence, except if less than 25% of the crown is pruned, but not for the topping of such trees, and not for new development or redevelopment (exemptions published in Government Gazette no. 773 of 27 August 2007). No topping or excessive pruning for sea views are allowed.

NATURAL FOREST IS PROTECTED

Section 3 of the National Forests Act of 1998, (Act No. 84 of 1998) stipulates that natural forests may not be destroyed. Section 7 of this Act also states that trees in a natural forest may not be cut, destroyed, pruned or damaged without a licence. In terms of policy, such destruction is only allowed in exceptional circumstances such as strategic projects like bulk services and infrastructure (e.g. major roads, power lines, dams and pipelines), but not for residential development.

The only other exceptions to this rule are:

- vested rights such as zoning certificates issued and properties registered at the Surveyor-General before the year 2000, when the National Forests Act was enacted;

- primary property rights, such as the right to erect a dwelling for own use on a vacant property (number of units per specified area in semi-urban areas may have been determined in local zoning schemes). These exceptions do not apply automatically owing to complex land-use and legal issues, and do not do away with the need to apply for a licence, in which case the responsible forestry official may have to investigate these land issues first.

PROMINENTLY DISPLAY YOUR STAND NUMBER ON YOUR HOUSE.

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

- **Reptile Questions?**

Following on last month's story of the tortoise mom who deposited her eggs on the verge of a fairly busy Lake Road intersection, any resident wanting advice on reptiles can always contact the **Reptile Park** (just past the Victoria Bay turn-off) **044 889 0028**, or can try Jonathan Britton of **SANParks, 044 877 1197**, but Jonathan is often busy out of the office.)



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.

Why does your street not yet have a WhatsApp Security Group?

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 knysnavetsw@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 wondered 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.

The Last Word:

The Chairman is having a well deserved rest !



Read his 2016 AGM Chairman's report on the website. Chairman Neville gave a comprehensive Wilderness "SONA" and covered all the points you should be aware of as a Wilderness resident.

- * Log onto www.wrra.co.za
- * Select **"Minutes/Newsletters"** on the blue Task Bar on the top of the website front page.
- * Select the second item on the drop down menu

"Chairs Annual Reports

- *This will bring up a pdf file that contains the Chairman's Report
- * Select **"Chair's Annual Report 2015"**

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.