



Wilderness Ratepayers and
Wilderness, Western Cape,

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www.wrra.co.za

Residents Association,
South Africa, 6560

WRRRA NEWSLETTER – March 2016



"Wilderness the place to be". [Thanks to whoever took this stunning photo!](#)

2016 WRRRA Subs are past due 😊 ! Please 😊 !

[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

- **Municipal Working Breakfast:** The WRRRA Committee again hosted a successful working breakfast for George Municipality department heads on 1st March 2016 at the Wilderness Hotel. The topics discussed covered various matters of importance and relevance to Wilderness and the residents. The importance of these meetings is proved by the great working relationship the WRRRA has with the Municipality and is clearly visible to us all with the continuing work being done in Wilderness and the surrounding area by the Municipality.



- **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.
- **New (seconded) Committee members:** **Dee Marcus** will be getting her teeth into the Tourism portfolio and is already off to a flying start, putting a survey together to get feedback regarding security in the Village. **Doug Wilcox** (who designed and implemented our www.wrra.co.za website) has agreed to take on the Roads portfolio. Thanks to both of you for stepping up to the plate!

- **Sad Wilderness Railway line:** The WRRRA have written to TRANSNET regarding the poor state of the vegetation along the railway line. They have responded to the correspondence and advised : *"26th Feb 2016 : Our facilities department is currently busy with inspections in the area. I should receive feedback and prepare for quotations next week. I will keep you informed."*



Hmmmmmm.....

- **Illegal Dumping:** Thanks to vigilant residents, the people responsible for the unsightly rubbish dumped at the bottom of Constantia Drive were identified. Turns out that the truck hired to collect and remove the rubble was in turn rented out to a second party, who in turn rented it out to a third party , who then acknowledged that they had dumped the rubbish in the wrong place and removed the load immediately. Ja well no fine!

Keep your eyes peeled and report and we will name and shame if necessary.
Keep Wilderness Clean and as Beautiful as it is!

- **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

- **Cheese Festival:** Planned for 13-15 May 2016 in Wilderness. The WRRA will be using the Common as a Fund Raiser for parking for WRRA coffers. More info in next month's Newsletter.



- **Erf 329, Wilderness Heights:** No further communication has been received with regard to the proposed development on Erf 329. The WRRA will advise as soon as we have been informed of developments by the authorities.
- **Parking in the Village. At last! A clear and perfect solution!**



- **Wilderness Police Station Project:** As mentioned in previous newsletters, there is still some work to be done at our Village SAPS office. We have taken delivery of a kitchen sink and cupboard which will be installed shortly.
- **WRRA Lectures:** Over **135** people attended Hugo Leggat's interesting lecture about the history of our Wilderness on 16th March!! Clearly a topic and speaker that piqued all our interest. Thank you Hugo for a most



informative and interesting presentation. The WRRRA looks forward to hosting another in our series of interesting lectures. Watch this space!!

- **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>
- **DISTEMPER OUTBREAK IN THE GEORGE AND MOSSEL BAY AREA**
The Garden Route SPCA has received numerous cases of sick dogs which, when seen by our in-house Veterinarian, are diagnosed with Distemper. Some are in the beginning stage and some already in the final stage of this highly contagious viral disease.

The virus, is spread through the air, and by direct or indirect (i.e. utensils, bedding) contact with an infected animal. It attacks the respiratory, urogenital, gastrointestinal and nervous systems. Dogs that are not vaccinated that come into any kind of contact with an infected animal carry a particularly high risk of contracting this highly contagious disease.

Interesting websites:

- **Frog-eating Beetle Larva (Chlaenius (Epomis)) sightings at Botanical Garden.** If you are slightly interested in more about the frog-eating beetle larva try this website. These grisly acts have been documented by Gil Wizen and Avital Gasith from Tel-Aviv University in Israel. Gasith discovered the beetle's behaviour in 2008, when he found several larvae attached to frogs in the wild. Now, he and Wizen have worked out its strategy. <http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/notrocketscience/2011/09/21/beetle-larva-lures-and-kills-frogs-while-the-adult-hunts-and-paralyses-them/#.VrMOYbJ96Zk>



WESSA: Saturday 9 th April (09h30 – 12h00)

Knysna Basin Project Excursion

Knysna estuary is regarded as the most important estuary in terms of biodiversity in South Africa. It is estimated that 42% of South Africa’s fauna and flora can be found within this Estuarine Bay. It is unique in that the mouth is always open to the sea and the tides replenish the estuary with 18.5million cubic metres of seawater twice a day. Surprisingly many people seem unaware of the ecological importance of this amazing stretch of water and the amount of scientific research it attracts. The estuary sustains myriad of bird, fish and invertebrate species that call it home. The Knysna Basin Project is an NGO based in Knysna focused on the continued conservation of the Knysna Estuary and surrounds. The project manages various research projects based in the Knysna Estuary and also run educational programmes for the local community. A greater understanding of the estuary is achieved through ongoing research –which is in turn used to manage and conserve the area. Come and join the Knysna Basin Project team for an exploration of the Knysna Estuary. During the outing learn more about the Estuary and what makes it so unique. A team of volunteers are ready to introduce you to the various animals which reside in the waters of the Estuary. A brief field guide to the common shore creatures of the Knysna Estuary will be on sale for R65 per book. For more information on the Knysna Basin Project (www.knysnabasinproject.co.za) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/knysna.basin.project/). Bookings contact: Annemarie angebhar@telkomsa.net 044 870 0086



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- **AUTUMN INDIGENOUS PLANT SALE 1 & 2 APRIL 2016**

The **Garden Route Botanical Garden** will be hosting its Autumn Plant Sale on the 1 & 2 April 2016.

Time: FRI 08:00-16:00 and SAT 08:00 – 14:00.

Venue: Botanical Garden NURSERY at 49 Caledon Street, George.

Participating Nurseries, Wide selection of indigenous plants and trees; succulents and aloes, herbs, Sale Specials, potting Soil and Botanical Books. TEA GARDEN AND FOOD STALLS.

FREE entrance and parking. An event not to miss !

For more info contact Kristen: 044 874 1558 / info@botanicalgarden.org.za

- **Add another weed onto the list of ghasilies.**

Early Detection: **Hibbertia scandens (Snake Vine, Climbing Guinea Flower or Golden Guinea Vine)** is being flagged as a potential listed invasive. We have a bit in the Garden Route and it has been posted from further east and west on iSpot. Get rid of it now before it becomes unmanageable and you will have fewer hassles.



- [GIPTN: Go George](#)

Visit the website for more information

www.gogeorge.org.za

- **Hopefully Go George will reach Wilderness by April / May.**

- Go George Contact Person is James Robb
072 235 8585

Watch the Press for details



[Community Police Forum](#)

WILDERNESS SECURITY POLICE FORUM: NEW MEETING VENUE in 2015 at [The Views Boutique Hotel, Wilderness](#), **TUESDAY 29th March 2016 at 17h30. Please attend. This is in all of our interest.**

[Security and Safety issues](#)

- Please report crimes. This 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 at 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.**

PROMINENTLY DISPLAY YOUR STAND NUMBER ON YOUR HOUSE.

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

Good Reasons for joining WRRRA

Do you live in Wilderness?

If you are already a member of **WRRRA** (the Wilderness Ratepayers & Residents Association), thank you and well done (and please pass this on to your neighbour!)

If you are not a member, **please become one!**

It is thanks to our members that we can:

Help influence municipal decisions,

Help get roads/pipes repaired,

Send out security/emergency updates, including road closures, electricity issues, weather warnings,

Keep the village clean and safer through the Wilderness Improvement Programme,

And provide news and talks of interest to us

Click the link below to go to our WRRRA Membership Application form :

http://wrra.co.za/images/stories/PDF/Membership/WRRRA_Application_Form_2016.pdf

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 from 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:



A quick note to thank all of our members who made it to the Special General and Annual General Meetings back in February. I am pleased that the changes to the Constitution have now been formalised and we can continue getting on with “business”.

I am delighted to have a full committee once again. Dee Marcus has agreed to take on the tourism portfolio and has some great ideas on engaging with the business and B&B communities. Doug Wilcox will be getting stuck into the roads portfolio. A warm welcome to you both!

At our last committee meeting, Stiaan Carstens of the George Municipality gave us a wonderful introduction to his world of town planning. Late last year the municipality introduced a new by-law to regulate and control municipal land use planning. The 73 page document sets out in detail, the framework for spatial planning, development management, application procedures, criteria for decision making, extension of validity periods of approvals, municipal planning decision making structures, the provision of engineering services, enforcement and even a section on naming and numbering of streets. The by-law is supported by the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (or PAJA as it is commonly referred). Of particular importance to all our members is the procedure that must be followed if you are planning any alteration or addition to any building, structure or property in the municipal area. The by-law is published on the George Municipality’s web site. www.george.org.za and the look under “Documents” and then “Policies and By-Laws”.

The village has recently seen a lot of activity on the common – mainly school rugby teams getting ready for the tournament in George. But, this has been marred by the state of the common – thanks to dog owners who will simply not “pick up” after their dogs. I appeal to all dog owners who make use of the common to do your bit so that we can all have a clean (and healthy) place to exercise.

Cheers

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.