



Wilderness Ratepayers and  
Wilderness, Western Cape,

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Residents Association,  
South Africa, 6560

## WRRRA NEWSLETTER – April 2016



*"Wilderness the place to be". Photo courtesy of Trevor Nezar*

**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

- **Farewell:** The WRRRA bid farewell and wish Stiaan Carstens of George Municipality's town planning department every success in his new career with Province. We are relieved that he is not leaving George and that he will still be "around". Stiaan has made a huge contribution to George and the surrounding area during his tenure and Wilderness will certainly miss him.
- **Erf 260:** The Wilderness Ratepayers and Residents Association in principal supports well-designed and well-considered applications for development in and around the Village centre. The owners of Erf 260, the property just below St. Aidan's Chapelry, have applied for rezoning and departure of building lines. The WRRRA has lodged an objection on various aspects that we feel will prejudice the Village of Wilderness and also because of the resulting precedents that such an approval will bring. The WRRRA will keep you posted on developments.



- **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.

- **Official Wilderness Village Monitor Identification:** WRRRA Village Monitors will soon be sporting "Official" safety vests, caps and name tags, so that residents and visitors can clearly identify who the appointed monitors are. Hopefully this will deter the "car guard" chancers that try to muscle in and annoy us all.

- **Paragliding site closure at Kleinkrantz:** The WRRRA is seriously concerned that there has been a pitiful lack of stakeholder engagement on this issue. Wilderness Tourism and WRRRA only just became aware of the situation after a “decision” by authorities appears to have already been made. The closure of the site has far more reputational and risk implications for tourism in the area than just looking at an impact on a very short stretch of beach. The WRRRA has voiced its concerns to the relevant authorities and we await their response.



- **Not getting any Municipal black rubbish bags?** Drop an email to Mr Wessel Robertson [Robertson@george.org.za](mailto:Robertson@george.org.za) 044 802 2904. Mr Robertson is the Manager Cleansing and will follow up for you. Remember, *“the squeaky wheel gets the oil ☺ !”*
- **Blue Flag Status:** Vernon Gibbs-Halls, Environmental Specialist Biodiversity and Coastal Management, Eden District Municipality - Management Services , together with a partnership of SANPARKS, WRRRA and George municipality personnel, are in the process of applying to have our Wilderness Blue Flag Status reinstated. This process will take a few more months, but hold thumbs that Wilderness Beaches will soon once again have the coveted Blue Flag Status.

- **Sad Wilderness Railway line:** TRANSNET had advised: *“26<sup>th</sup> 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..... Again !

- **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 are 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](http://wrra.co.za/images/stories/PDF/Contacts/Municipal_Contacts.pdf)
- **Leentjieskip lights repaired:** The lights at the Leentjieskip toilet and braai area have been repaired. Thanks to Ben August and his team at the George Municipality. Residents are urged to contact the municipality to make repairs such as this. The Municipality often won’t know if there is a problem that needs fixing and all it takes is a phone call or two from **concerned and involved** residents to the Municipality and the problem gets solved. Please take control of our Wilderness and become involved and report problems to the municipality. Various Municipal Department contact numbers are available on our website. [http://wrra.co.za/images/stories/PDF/Contacts/Municipal\\_Contacts.pdf](http://wrra.co.za/images/stories/PDF/Contacts/Municipal_Contacts.pdf)

- **Village Security:** We have lately had a few tramps in the village. One seems to have now made himself at home in Wilderness and has become a nuisance begging from people, particularly around Cocomo's and in front of the hotel. He is particularly assertive with woman and we have had a number of complaints. The WRRRA have spoken to SAPS but they cannot do anything unless the tramp breaks the law or if someone lays a charge. Unfortunately there are people who hand out food and money and this is only encouraging the tramps and escalating the problem. We appeal to people not to support these tramps in any way. Money given to them is only used for alcohol and drugs.

Signs warning people of possible muggings have been erected at Leentjiesklip and on the railway line at Victoria Bay and we intend putting up similar signs at Dolphins Point where there have recently been robberies.

**DON'T BE COMPLACENT. PERSONAL SECURITY IS YOUR OWN PROBLEM. SWITCH ON YOUR ALARMS, KEEP YOUR DOORS LOCKED. DON'T BE FOOLED, YOU TOO CAN BECOME A VICTIM. IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU! TAKE CARE AND TAKE YOUR OWN SECURITY SERIOUSLY.**

- **WRRRA Lectures:** Following up Hugo Leggat's extremely topical, interesting and exceptionally well attended talk in March is going to put the next speaker under pressure ☺ ! Rest assured the Committee is looking long and hard to find the next speaker. We will keep you informed.
- **Cheese Festival:** Will be held on 13-15 May 2016 in Wilderness. As a fundraiser for the WRRRA, we will be using the Common for parking.



- **Erf 329, Wilderness Heights:**



Report back to WRRRA members:

Notwithstanding the efforts of WRRRA committee members to get the authorities to consider other alternatives, the George Municipality has taken the decision that the current residents on erf 329 will not be moved and solutions **will** be found to accommodate them on the property.

The residents of the existing 117 structures will be provided with new units in what is characterized as an "eco village".

At a recent meeting attended by two WRRRA committee members, the provincial officer coordinating the process gave assurances that after the erection of 117 new units, no further houses would be allowed. Further, no future expansion on erf 329

or any adjacent properties will be allowed. Strict monitoring of the number of residents is already in place and any new structures detected will be demolished.

All relevant surveys and studies will be undertaken and public participation invited. The entire process will take at least a year, probably more, before any construction begins. The WRRRA will be a full participant in the planning process. As in the recent meeting, we will continue to raise issues important to the Wilderness Heights community as a whole.

We will do everything possible to ensure that the project progresses within the bounds of what has been agreed and what may be agreed to in the future.

- **Government Elections:** The Local Government Elections will take place on 3 August 2016.
- **Municipal feedback:** Heights Road: Comment from Mr Hans Ottervanger from Eden District Municipality: SNA, the consultants have been appointed to do the engineering designs. They receive their instructions from Cape Town HQ. I have as yet not seen the designs and could therefore not give my inputs. However, before the design stage, I did go over the road to point out the structural defects that I know of. I and the office of the District Roads Engineer will comment on the preliminary designs as soon as we receive them.

- **Condolences:** WRRRA Chairman Neville offered condolences to the de Swart family and also the staff of Pomodoro in Wilderness, on the sad passing of Braam de Swart at the Buffalo rally. Many Wilderness residents knew Braam as the manager at Pomodoro. Sincere condolences to all.



- **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>

- **WESSA NEWS: 21 May 2016 Kammanassie Geology Tour**



A full day trip, commencing in de Rust and moving east towards Uniondale, south to the Langkloof and ending just before Herold. The route basically circumnavigates the Kammanassie Mountains which lie between the Swartberg to the north and the Outeniquas to the south.

Two of our expert geologists, **Paul Rixom and Colin Ralston** will each lead a small group of about 20 participants. It is definitely a case of roadside-geology, mostly driving with stops at geological features en route. Enjoy a preview at the following blogspot – especially the photos that Paul Rixom took <http://dieoervlakteprimordialplains.blogspot.com>. Obligatory Donation for this tour: R 100 for WESSA members (students and pensioners too), R120 for non-members is for our Enviro & Education Fund.

**Bookings essential:** [wessageorge@isat.co.za](mailto:wessageorge@isat.co.za) Limited numbers!

**From WESSA “ Just a quick note to say we have managed to add another weed onto the list of ghashlies.”**



**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 and it has been posted from further east and west on iSpot. If we get rid of it now before it becomes unmanageable we will have less hassles. I have let Kay Montgomery know and she has in turn informed the Early Detection and Rapid Response teams.”** Priscilla Burgoyne Curator, Southern Cape Herbarium

### Interesting websites:

- **Think You Can Hide In A Crowd?** Click here: <http://www.gigapixel.com/mobile/?id=79995>  
Click on the picture of the crowd. Proof that Big Brother is watching !

- **If you go down to the woods today....A Knysna elephant has been spotted** by a SANParks ranger and also Cape Pine/MTO field workers.



- **SAN Parks electronic newsletter**  
<http://www.wildcard.co.za> Brings loads of information pertaining to **SANPARKS** and the environment. Recent articles include: Kruger floods: latest updates, National Water Week: Know what you protect, Book review: Pocket Guide Insects of South Africa and more.



- **Go George**

Visit the website for more information [www.gogeorge.org.za](http://www.gogeorge.org.za)

**WRRRA:** What does the schedule look like for Go George roll-out in Wilderness?

What does it depend on? Anticipated delays, obstacles, etc.?

**Go George:** Presently the envisaged roll-out for Phase4 is in the second half of the year. The delays to roll out were mostly caused by the availability of buses. The present plan is to lease buses from the City of Cape Town. The intention is to ensure that that Phase is stabilized before the system is rolled out to other areas. Other factors that may have an influence is the funding for the project. Presently the funding is under severe stress due to cut-backs by National Government. The success of this phase is therefore crucial and will have a big influence on the roll out date for Phase 5 that will service Wilderness. The present estimate is that this date might be early 2017 depending on funding and the factors mentioned.

**WRRRA:** Timberlake. We've heard from commercial owners at Timberlake that Go George would be very welcome there – for staff who must commute to George, for tourists, and even for managers and owners. Is there any chance that a route could be extended to Timberlake?

**Go George:** The roll out of the service to rural areas will only be implemented once all the urban routes are stabilized and will also be dependent on funding.

**WRRRA:** .Security. It is our understanding that Go George will use CCTV cameras at the bus stops in Wilderness. We wonder if there is a way to extend the coverage of the cameras to other 'danger' points in the Village. In other words, we see the Go George security as a system that could be expanded to benefit the entire Village security situation. This would require additional funds of course. Is this something the Municipality could consider? Maybe the WRRRA could encourage and promote a "partnership" where the businesses fund some of it?

**Go George:** The intension is to extend the CCTV network to all routes that will be used by the system. The extent of this network will be dependent on the funding and will become known as the system is rolled out. A presentation was done recently by the George Municipality to NDOT and Treasury. As mentioned we were informed of budget cuts, but were also assured that because of the good performance of the project, George will be seriously considered if funding has to be re-allocated from other Metros that are not performing.

- [Community Police Forum](#)

**WILDERNESS SECURITY POLICE FORUM: NEW MEETING VENUE in 2015 at [The Views Boutique Hotel, Wilderness](#), **MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> April 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.

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## **PROMINENTLY DISPLAY YOUR STAND NUMBER ON YOUR HOUSE.**

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

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**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.**

- [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](http://wrra.co.za/images/stories/PDF/Membership/WRRRA_Application_Form_2016.pdf)**

## Embrace Technology

**Modern Nightmare !!!!!!!**



## Neighbourhood Security: WHATSAPP Groups



**Does your Street have a WHATSAPP Group Yet??**

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

**If you live**

On <b>Constantia Kloof</b>	Join ConsKloofSecurity	SMS Donald	083 251 8401
On <b>Sands Road</b>	Join SandsRoadSecurity	SMS Lucy	076 903 0257
On <b>Wilderness Heights</b>	Join HeightsWatch	SMS Roy	082 060 7474
In <b>Wilderness East</b>	Join 'WECAN' Wilderness	SMS Estelle	083 292 1190
In <b>Kingfisher Close</b>	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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:wrra@tiscali.co.za) : Erf Number, Surname, First name and cell number.

## The Last Word:



It's that time of year when we say farewell to many of our "swallows" who will soon be heading for warmer climes. Go well, travel safely and we look forward to see you all back in Wilderness in spring.

Our weather is starting to turn and despite the recent unbelievably hot spell, the nights are getting cooler, the grass isn't growing quite so frenetically and the days are getting shorter. "Oh dear, winter is on its way" I hear you say. Well it's just as well as we could do with some rain and besides, it gives us an opportunity to catch up on things that we simply can't do when it is too hot. In fact, the record turn-outs this last week for the Wilderness Bowling and Croquet Club is a good indication. BTW, this club has been featured on our

web site as local club of the month in March. All contact information etc is on the web site.

(<http://wrra.co.za/index.php/2016-03-14-12-55-36/wilderness-bowling-club>)

WRRRA has again been called on to give input on a proposed development adjacent to St Aidan's Chapel. Needless to say, whilst we support development, it does need to be in the public interest and WRRRA has submitted a detailed objection to the re-zoning and development which is just too close to St Aidan's. Whilst submitting this, I was reminded of our commitment to members to hold a "workshop" on what our members would like the future of Wilderness to look like. This will be planned for July and we'll send out the date as soon as we can. I'm sure that there will be considerable interest in such a meeting – but handing the diverse views might be easier said than done. In the final analysis, we are seeking a broader perspective than just that of the committee.

WRRRA is also concerned with the temporary closure of the Kleinkrantz paragliding site. Whilst there is obviously a concern over the damage done to the dune area, this is not caused by the paragliders alone and yet nothing is being done to stop the others who are responsible for the damage. The closure is going to have an impact on Wilderness as a paragliding tourist destination and of course with that goes B&B occupancies and ultimately, employment of our local population. Sometimes the unintended consequences of a decision can be more devastating than the original problem.

So with winter approaching, don't forget your 'flu shots and to dust off all those hobbies that are better suited to indoors.

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 [wrra@tiscali.co.za](mailto:wrra@tiscali.co.za) end your email address will be remove from our mailing list immediately.