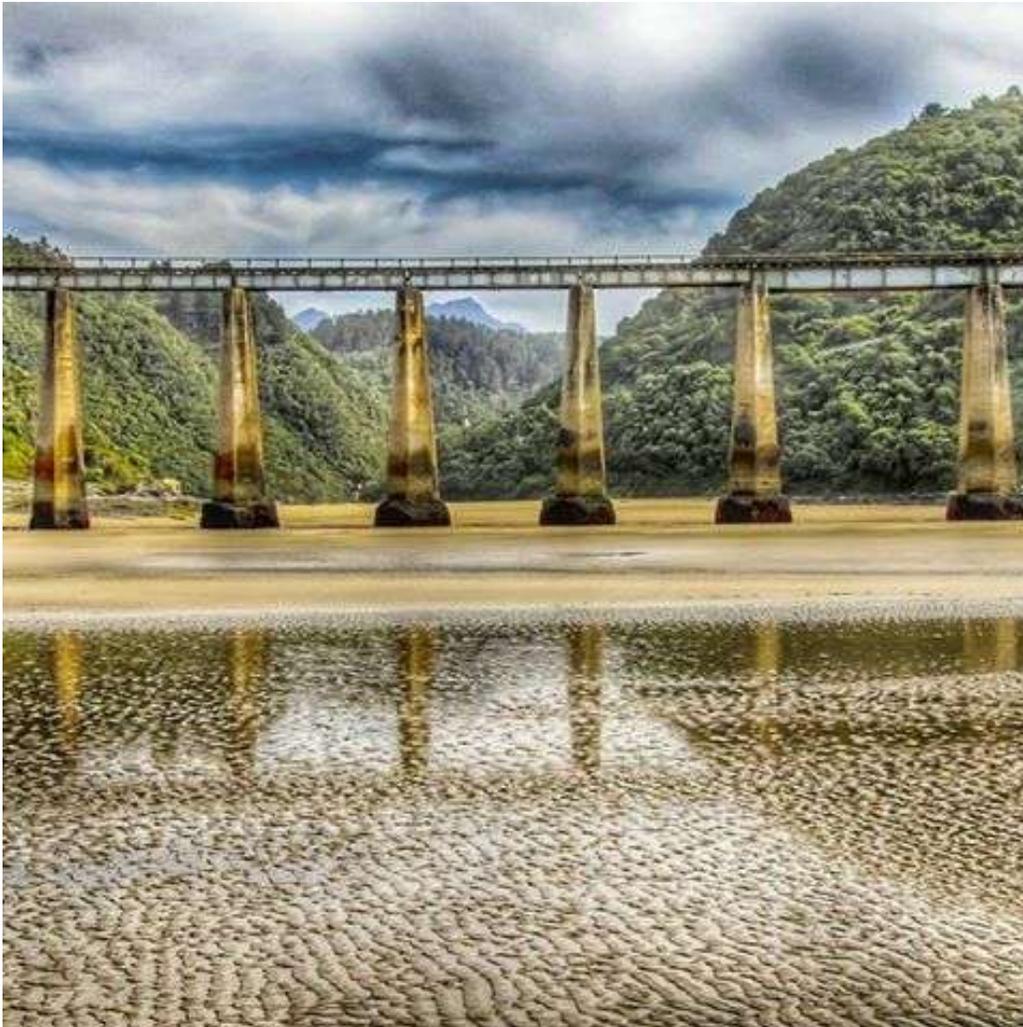




Wilderness Ratepayers and Residents Association, Wilderness, Western Cape, South Africa, 6560  
wrra@tiscali.co.za 082 895 6317 www.wrra.co.za

## WRRRA NEWSLETTER – May 2016



*"Wilderness the place to be". Photo found on facebook ☺!*

Don't miss this talk by Jeannine McManus of the  
Landmark Foundation, brought to you by WRRRA .

**WED 25 MAY 6.30 for 7.00pm**

**Wilderness Hotel & Spa. Cash bar.**

# LEOPARDS

( from our backyard to Tsitsikamma )



**PEOPLE  
& EVERY-  
THING!**



**ENTRY**

**R10 WRRRA  
MEMBERS**

**R20 NON-  
MEMBERS**



[www.wrracoza](http://www.wrracoza)

## Wilderness Improvement Program and Services News

- **Erf 260:** The owners of Erf 260, the property just below St. Aidan's Chapelry, have applied for rezoning and departure of building lines. 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.
- **Environmental Update:**
  - Despite their best efforts, scientists are still not certain but seem to think that last year's **bird mortalities** at Island Lake were caused by a **naturally occurring** avian virus.
  - The WRRRA **"Dogs on Beaches"** proposal goes to Council: After a successful meeting with various law enforcement and municipal officials, WRRRA's proposal to divide the Wilderness beach into clear, well sign-posted zones is now going to Council. Our proposal is to introduce the zones on a six month trial basis... and if it achieves the required satisfaction for all, lift the current NO DOGS ALLOWED status on our beaches.

The zones will be **RED (people only - no dogs allowed)**, **ORANGE (dogs allowed with conditions, e.g. on leash between 9.00am and 5.00pm)** and **GREEN (dogs allowed off leash)**. This colour zone proposal has impressed Eden Municipality's Vernon Gibbs-Hall who wants it to be adopted by Province.

Conditional to beach usage is a **ZERO TOLERANCE** stance when it comes to dog poop!

The fine for not picking up and removing your dog's poop in any public place (a beach, our village green or a road verge) has been set at R500! So Wilderness dog owners, please don't be the ones fined, named and shamed! Take those compulsory poo-bags with you and use them!

- Assessment of repairs required to the **SANParks Island Lake slipway** have been hampered by lack of diving visibility due the algae bloom.
- Beach-front properties under threat from **beach erosion**: instead of each land owner doing their 'own thing', a communal plan is being sought that will be handed over to engineers to create a unified solution.
- SANParks has advised that a dedicated Madeira Vine team is being started. Details to follow.
- At a meeting between Hugo Leggaat and SANParks set up by WRRRA, it was agreed that the sand walls created to facilitate the **breaching of the Touw River mouth** would be better moved to raise either side of the breach channel like a dam wall. This should help reduce the sand being washed back onto the lagoon by high tides. SANParks is keen to try Hugo's suggestion.
- The Wilderness Lakes Catchment Management Forum meetings have certainly highlighted the desperate water shortages in Sedgfield and Knysna. Wilderness water supply is fortunately good at present, but should be valued. Report leakages and please attend to dripping taps.

- Blue Flag Status: Vernon Gibbs-Hall of Eden District Municipality is driving this process, but is being hampered by the high costs associated with becoming an approved Blue Status Beach. WESSA has been allocated the sum of R40, 000 from Department of Tourism towards the costs, but there is still a large funding gap to fill. As much as WRRRA would like a Blue Flag Beach, the association is not in a position to contribute towards the funding. We will keep you informed in future Newsletters.
- Paragliding site temporarily closed: The temporary closure of the paragliding launch site at the eastern end of Kleinkrantz has caused some consternation...residents complaining about illegal parking and environmental damage...paragliders objecting to the loss of an important community launch site.

SANParks assures us that there is a close collaborative effort between the George and Eden District municipalities, SANParks and DEADP to improve the management of paragliding launch sites in a holistic and all-encompassing environmentally sustainable way.

A well respected consultant and expert on dune rehabilitation is producing a report on the Kleinkrantz site which will help find the best options to manage and develop this and other launch sites.

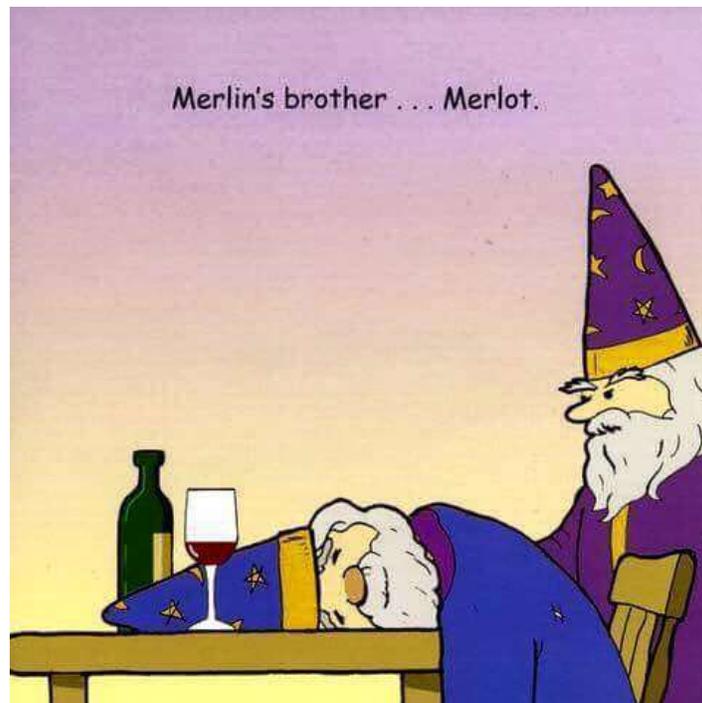
(My apologies to Chris Burlock, our Environmental Committee member, I forgot to put this article in last month's WRRRA newsletter. ☹ Sorry Chris !!!)

- **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 ☺ !"*
- **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)
  - Sewage Odor on the Green: Caused by leakage from a hole in a cement pipe at the sump at Estuary Pump Station, at the bottom of the Green. The hole was repaired on 12 May and a new manhole cover was meant to be fitted this week.
  - Low Water Pressure, Wilderness Heights: Caused by a corroded pipe leaking near Boardwalk Lodge. During the replacement of the pipe, water was turned off and the pressure dropped. Once it was repaired, the pressure took a while to be restored. Once restored, the water was a bit murky for a few days (visible chlorine). Now, all ok.
  - Parking Lot Lights: The lights at the big parking lot behind the minimart remained on during the day for more than a week. We pursued the matter on Day Three, but it took several more days before they were turned off.

- Streetlight: The one streetlight near the bottom of Heights Road was not working for several weeks. Your WRRRA chased this up with some frequency until ... until .. still chasing.
- Rubbish Collection: Black rubbish bags of some residents are not being collected on schedule. This turns out to be an ongoing problem of the Municipality. They are working on it as we are working on them. If your rubbish isn't collected on the designated day, call or write Mr Wessel Robertson [robertson@george.org.za](mailto:robertson@george.org.za), 044 802 2904. He is the Manager Cleansing and will arrange for collection.
- Black Rubbish Bags: The inconsistent and even non-delivery of promised (and paid for!) bags may or may not be related to the weekly rubbish collection problems. If you are not receiving your pack of 26 rubbish bags every three months (as paid for! did we mention that?), we've been advising you to write or call Mr Wessel Robertson, [robertson@george.org.za](mailto:robertson@george.org.za), 044 802 2904. If that doesn't work, I'm afraid you'd be wise to pick up your own pack of bags. You can do so from their office at 82 Meade Street in George. It's unfortunate that we residents must do this ourselves, and we hope this problem is sorted out in the near future, but once you make the effort, it is rather painless. The phone there is 044 802 2900. Questions? Ask [ilse@george.org.za](mailto:ilse@george.org.za) or [gjel@george.org.za](mailto:gjel@george.org.za).
- Illegal Dumping: We reported that a pile of building rubble had been dumped on the side of Heights Road. The Municipality picked it up within a few days. If you spot what you think is illegal dumping, and you can't find the culprit, email information including exact location to [ilse@george.org.za](mailto:ilse@george.org.za).
- **Road News**: The Department of Transport & Public Works: Roads Infrastructure Branch (Western Cape Government) proposes to upgrade and surface Divisional Road DR01609 in its entirety and a portion of DR01625 within the limits of Rondevlei Village. A need for upgrading the road has been identified as a result of increased traffic volumes. The road, which is located west of Sedgefield and north of the N2, starts at the intersection with the N2 (km 0,0) and ends at the intersection with DR01625 (km 6,43). The section from km 0, 0 to km 0, 15 currently has a bituminous surface, while the remainder of the road is gravelled. A railway line crosses the road near km 6, 1. The proposed upgrade is also necessary for the sustainable maintenance of the road and protection during flood events. The road is intended to be upgraded to bituminous surfacing. As per a request from SANParks, the surfacing will be altered to textured brick paving on the section of road that falls adjacent to or within the SANParks property (km 2.6 to km 6.1). The minimum surfaced cross-section is aimed to be suitable for a Class 3 road (7.4m wide surface). The project would include the following:

- Surface/pave the existing gravel road and include specific storm water control designs along certain sections of the road to facilitate drainage in the vlei area;
- Replacement of the culvert at kilometre 6.5 on road DR01625 (in Rondevlei village);
- Replacement of the culvert at kilometre 5.1 on road DR01609 (between Bo-Langvlei and Rondevlei);
- Soak-away side drains to assist with the draining of water to prevent floods and direct flow of storm water into the vlei areas;
- Realignment of bend in road at kilometre 2.6; and
- Public Participation will run from May 12th to June 13th 2016.

Please click on the link on the front page of the website [wrra.co.za](http://wrra.co.za) to view the document.



- **Village Security:** **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.**
  - WhatsApp Groups: the system is working well BUT please stop sending unnecessary social posts. The system should only be used for security issues. Large WhatsApp groups should consider splitting into smaller "close proximity" groups. Remember to put your name on a post and stand number. Some messages are only received with your cell

phone registered name or “nickname” and in emergency, no-one will know who you are.

- W/O Bennie reported that a firearm has been stolen in a recent house robbery and this is a serious matter. He appeals to people owning firearms to ensure they take all precaution with safekeeping.
  - Wilderness Heights : W/O Bennie says he is having quite a lot of trouble in that area and appeals to people to ensure their alarms are in working order and to also take necessary precautions to ensure their homes are locked when they go out.
  - Colonel and Brigadier Mavakala from George SAPS recommended that elderly residents should wear a panic button. She also recommended that residents make a record of serial numbers of appliances. This assists greatly in convicting apprehended felons. The Brigadier also suggested that residents not leave carving knives on counter tops, but put these away in drawers.
  - There has been another incident at Dolphins Point. W/O Bennie Boshoff and WRRRA committee members are currently working on a plan to try and substantially reduce the risk factors to visitors who stop there. Please report loiterers to SAPS and they will send a van to investigate. Please be careful and vigilant if you stop at the view point and warn your visitors of the possible dangers of being accosted at the view site or along the railway line to Vic Bay.
- [Community Police Forum](#)

**WILDERNESS SECURITY POLICE FORUM: NEW MEETING VENUE in 2015 at The Views Boutique Hotel, Wilderness, MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 17h30. Please attend. This is in all of our interest.**

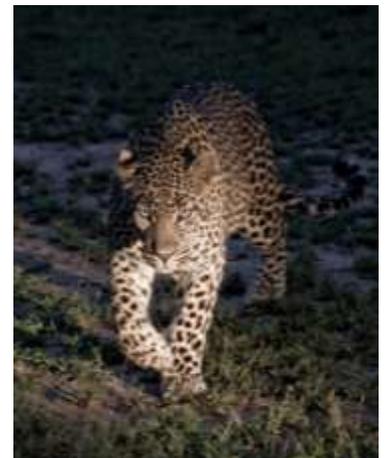
**Still a few 2016 WRRRA Subs Outstanding ☹ ! Please ☺ !**

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

**Account Number 1110522444 / R150 Please use you Stand Number and name as a reference to WRRRA**

- **WRRRA Lectures: Leopards, People and Everything!**

Here’s a talk that anyone interested in the Secret Life of Leopards should not miss. Speaker, Jeannine McManus, is a Wits-Carnegie scholar who obtained her BTech in Nature Conservation from Saarsveld and a MSc. at Rhodes. She is currently a PhD candidate at Wits University and Field Researcher for the renowned Landmark Foundation.



Using camera traps and nuclear DNA, Jeannine and her colleagues are looking at leopards in a human-dominated landscape and how this affects their habitat selection, movement patterns and genetic structure. She will focus on leopards in the Saarsveld to Titsikamma area, with some updated information on the Knysna elephants, too! (Camera traps can reveal a whole host of secrets!)



Organised by WRRRA, the talk will take place at the Wilderness Hotel and Spa (opposite the Village Green), on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016, 6.30 for 7.00pm.

Jeannine McManus setting up a camera trap, any movement will be captured.

Entry is R10 per WRRRA member and R20 per non-members. A cash bar is available before and after the talk so come early!

- **Erf 329, Wilderness Heights:** Report back to WRRRA members:



Erf 329, Informal Settlement. In mid-April, WRRRA Committee representatives held another meeting with key role players, this time with the provincial Minister of Human Settlements and his staff that are driving their work. The informal settlement will be formalized. A feasibility and concept study has begun. Interested and Affected Parties will have

opportunities to make themselves heard at public participation events. We have been advised that the number of housing units will be restricted to a list which is currently being finalised and that there will be no future expansion on any neighbouring properties. As the studies continue and the project rolls out, the WRRRA will play an active and vigilant part every step of the way.

- **Government Elections:** The Local Government Elections will take place on 3 August 2016.
- **Municipality:** If you are thinking of building in Wilderness, go to our [www.wrra.co.za](http://www.wrra.co.za) website and review the documentation regarding building and OSCA permits for Wilderness. Click on this link <http://wrra.co.za/index.php/2015-04-15-08-45-40/2015-03-27-12-24-42/building-in-wilderness> and scroll down.

- **Dog Ordinances:** Know your by-laws  
4.3.1 “Any person or breeder wishing to keep an unsterilised dog/cat, with or without the intention to breed, must obtain a permit from the Municipality.  
(a) An application to keep an unsterilised dog/cat must be in writing on a prescribed form and must be accompanied by the prescribed fee. Any applications in terms of sub-section (a) must be submitted-  
(i) in the prescribed form and must contain an exposition of the breed, gender and number of dogs applied for;



- (ii) plans and specifications of structures in which it is proposed to keep the dogs;
- (iii) a site plan indicating all existing or proposed structures and fences on the premises for which the permit is required;
- (iv) and the written consent of the surrounding neighbours;
- (v) any other information requested.

(vi) proof of registered breeder at KUSA (Kennel Union South Africa) or the specific dog breeds federation

4.4.1 Any person or breeder who wants to keep a greater number of dogs/cats on premises than the number permitted in terms of section 3 must apply to the Municipality for a permit which will not be unreasonably withheld." They too must comply with conditions 4.3.1 (a) (i) - (v) above.

**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:**

**....HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO WESSA !!!!!!!!!!!!! .....**

To celebrate WESSA's 90th year WESSA will be holding a fund-raising event **"SUNDOWNERS AT SALINAS"** -

Make a date in your diary.....

**Sunday 12 June from 16h00**

The programme includes a beach walk with Dr Steve du Toit (WESSA), a talk by Prof Christo Fabricius (NMMU) and refreshments and cash bar at Salinas Beach Restaurant, Wilderness.



- **Go George:**

The present estimate is that the Go George roll-out will reach Wilderness early 2017.

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

- **Another Illegal alien bites the dust in Wilderness:** Mervin Veldman, our WRRRA Wilderness gardener has been busy removing this invasive alien from our Wilderness village streams. Be on the lookout for it and remove it please.

**Common name: Castor-oil plant Scientific name: Ricinus communis Alternative common names:** Castorbean, wonder tree, kasterolieboom, bloubottelboom, bosluisboom.

**What does it look like?** A very distinctive plant with green, spreading star-shaped leaves and tall, spiky fruit capsules. Leaves: Shiny, star-shaped dark green or reddish leaves that are paler below with serrated margins. Flowers: Upper flowers are reddish and lower



flowers cream. Fruit/seeds: Green, brown or reddish, three-lobed capsules covered with soft spines protruding from the top of the plant.

**How does it spread?** Seed dispersal.

**Why is it a problem?** Competes with indigenous pioneering species especially in watercourses. Extremely poisonous.

- **Interesting websites:**

An Elephant never forgets – How wonderful! **And** proof that elephants love Land Rovers!

(This is really beautiful to watch! Don't think they are mangoes they are eating but marulas!!) Inviting big, exotic animals inside probably wasn't the plan when the Mfuwe Lodge was built in Zambia in 1998, but that's what wound up happening. The lodge surrounds a mango tree that a local group of elephants likes to feed on and sits on the path they traditionally used to get to it.

When Mfuwe opened for business, the elephants made it clear they had no intention of changing their route. They walked in like they owned the place, shuffled through the lobby and out into the courtyard to feast on mangoes.

The spectacle, no doubt concerning to whoever was working the reception desk the first time it happened, has become one of the lodge's main draws, and attracts crowds of tourists every year. According to the lodge, the group that makes the annual stroll through the lobby includes three generations of one elephant family, including their matriarch "Wonky Tusk" and the young "Lord Wellington," who was born on the lodge grounds in 2009.

Wildlife cameraman Nathan Pilcher recently (2014) went to Mfuwe to see the elephants for himself, and you can watch his short movie by clicking the following link! --- December 14, 2015

*[The Elephants that came to dinner | Mfuwe Lodge, Zambia](#)*

or [https://www.youtube.com/embed/NdTII\\_unZSA](https://www.youtube.com/embed/NdTII_unZSA)

- **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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

- **Hoekwil Car Boot Sale:** Car boot sales will be held on the 2nd Saturday of every month, so the next one is on the 11th of June at Hoekwil Primary from 8 till 1pm. Contact Mariëtte Künkel on 082 472 0922 or 044 850 1058 or [mmk692@gmail.com](mailto:mmk692@gmail.com) .The price per stand is only R50. This is a platform to sell ANYTHING except of course alcohol, guns, ammo and fireworks! Dogs on leashes are also welcome!



**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 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**

**Black Bags (26 every 90 days) : Municipality 044 802 2904**

**Municipal Contacts: Click here: [http://wrra.co.za/images/stories/PDF/Contacts/Municipal\\_Contacts.pdf](http://wrra.co.za/images/stories/PDF/Contacts/Municipal_Contacts.pdf)**

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

**Good idea.**



- Collect all the fur that your dog or cat is shedding anyway or that you brush out, and fill a bird feeder with it. The birds come and take the fur from the feeder to make warm nests for their families. If you have used any form of tick/flea powder, dip or spot on (Frontline etc) on your pets then rather not leave the fur for the birds as it may be toxic to them.

# Do you live in Wilderness?

Are you a WRRRA member?

It is thanks to our members that we can:

**Help influence municipal decisions,  
Help get roads/pipes/lights 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)

## 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
In <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	060 985 9113

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

Please send the name and cell number of your street's Security WhatsApp Group administrator to [wrra@tiscali.co.za](mailto:wrra@tiscali.co.za) to add to this list of administrators.

## 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 wandered 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: [wrrra@tiscali.co.za](mailto:wrrra@tiscali.co.za) : Erf Number, Surname, First name and cell number.

## **The Last Word:**



Some of you who attended the AGM will be aware of our initiatives to solve the problems associated with dogs on the various beaches. Chris Burlock has done a lot of research and came up with a plan towards the end of 2015 but it was too close to the holiday season to get any buy-in from the various authorities.

I am very pleased to report that we are more than a few steps closer: SANParks has endorsed the project with the proviso that the oystercatcher breeding grounds are strictly off limits to dogs at all times. Eden District Environmental Affairs thinks the plan is great (particularly the signage) and are going to take it forward to the Provincial Authorities. Just last week, a meeting was held with George municipal officials from Environment and Sport, Law Enforcement and Parks, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. At their request, we have now prepared the necessary documentation for submission to the various Section 80 Committees and hopefully we will have a positive response from them too so that we can implement the trial for a period of six months.

However, before the trial can be implemented, WRRRA has committed to ensure that every possible means of communication and community engagement takes place. We need to ensure that dog owners and people who just enjoy the beaches are aware of the changes and their rights and responsibilities. We even need to get it into the information booklets at every B&B in Wilderness so that visitors can also be aware of when and where they can and can't take their dogs onto the beach.

Hopefully, the response from everyone will be one of understanding and mutual respect. We need to make a success of this if we are all going to enjoy the wonderful beaches that Wilderness has to offer.

A recent personal experience was having a visitor from Cape Town who considered it "unthinkable" not to have a plastic bag with her when walking her dogs. As a start for Wilderness, it would be great if ALL dog owners who walk their dogs in public places got into the habit of taking a plastic bag with them and USING IT when necessary.

On Monday 2nd May, Ronnie Board as head of the Erf 329 Committee Portfolio met, at their behest, with 20+ residents of Wilderness Heights. Ronnie went to great lengths to explain the process that is underway from the Provincial Housing Department with George Municipality as the implementing agent.

Through WRRRA's involvement and persistence, something will happen, but all decisions will only be made by the Provincial Housing Department. WRRRA is regularly informed of the progress that is being made and this we convey to our members via our newsletter. It is evident that this is seen as a prime project that will receive utmost care and diligence to bring it to fruition. Nobody can, certainly at this stage, say exactly when, what and how things will unfold.

Until next time.

Cheers

Neville

### [Embrace Technology](#)



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.