



Thanks to all our members who have renewed their membership subs.
New or still need to pay? Please find details on wrra.co.za

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

WRRRA NEWS June 2016



**The Choo-Tjoe
will be Back!**

See Page 2

**Vleie Waste Site:
Appeal Lost**

See Page 3

Choo-Tjoe : Great News

Track repair begins on George-Knysna railway line.

Friends of the CJOO-TJOE have been advised that a team of specialist contractors has moved into Knysna to repair the George -Knysna railway line in preparation for the opening of a new tourist train service.

Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) has appointed Knysna-based Classic Rail as its preferred branch line concessionaire for a period of twenty years.

It will take some time for steam to return to the Garden Route, Classic Rail CEO Alan McVitty hopes to have the Knysna Dinner Train running between the Knysna Station and Keytersnek by December, 2016.



Read the George Herald for more details:
www.georgeherald.com

Hold thumbs Wilderness, the CHOO-TJOE could be here sooner than you think !

Waterside Road is seeing loads of action.



The long awaited replacement of water pipes along Waterside Road has commenced. Please be careful when driving along that stretch of road. Work is progressing well and the mess will soon be over.



Community minded residents have begun clearing the alien and overgrown brush on the lagoon side, along Waterside Road. Residents Kobus & Mareza van Rensburg, in consultation with SAN-Parks and the help of the Municipality and a local contractor have cleared a large section of overgrown foliage and opened up the beautiful view of the lagoon and boardwalk. A great project.

Wouldn't it be great to clear the whole avenue ?



Wilderness has just had it's first community CCTV camera and LED security lights installed in a public area.

Wilderness on Sea and **Bertcon** have erected these security measures to illuminate the passage from Sands road under the N2 that provides access to the Village via the Caltex garage. The high quality web camera will constantly record the activity in the area and will help identify perpetrators of incidents that occur there. Ian van Rooyen, (WRRRA Safety and Security portfolio) reports that W/O Bennie Boshoff at SAPS is extremely thankful for the initiative taken as it will benefit Wilderness residents and visitors alike. WRRRA thanks the Scott's and Bertie Basson for taking this step. Wilderness needs this kind of initiative. **Please let us know at wrra@tiscali.co.za if you can help expand the CCTV network!**

A ppeals against Vleie Waste Site denied:

Environmental Affairs Minister Anton Bredell has dismissed appeals against a waste management site licence issued to Knysna Municipality by his department for a building-rubble disposal and composting facility near Timberlake Village.

The site will service George, Sedgefield and Knysna residents and will be the first in the country under the new legislation.

Ward 4 Councilor Leon van Wyk has said that there is still hope because an application for land use still has to be submitted to the George Municipality and the George Municipality had previously appealed against the establishment of this waste site.

The WRRRA committee, who also appealed on behalf of the WRRRA, will confer with Wilderness and Lakes Anti-Dump Action Committee (WLAAC) and Wilderness and Lakes environmental Action Forum(WALEAF) and will report back in future newsletters.



www.alamy.com - EBNM2

PROMINENTLY DISPLAY YOUR STAND NUMBER ON YOUR HOUSE.

Help SAPS and emergency vehicles find you.

This may well save a life.

Embrace Technology

Embrace our Environment



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 Constantia Kloof	Join ConsKloofSecurity	SMS Donald	083 251 8401
On Sands Road	Join SandsRoadSecurity	SMS Lucy	076 903 0257
In 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	060 985 9113

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

If your WhatsApp Group is not listed, please send the name and cell number of your street's Security WhatsApp Group administrator to wrra@tiscali.co.za to add to this list of administrators.

Wilderness Improvement Program and Services News

- **Illegal Dumping:** If you spot what you think is illegal dumping, email the details to ilse@george.co.za
- **Refuse collection and Black Rubbish bags:** If your refuse is not collected or you do not receive black bags, contact Mr. Wessel Robertson on robertson@george.org.za or 044 802 2900
- **Sewage Odour on the Green:** Cement pipe leakage repaired at the Estuary Pump Station at the bottom of the Green, and finally a new manhole cover was fitted in late May.
- **Streetlight:** The one streetlight near the bottom of Heights Road was not working for several weeks. Crew was there, bulb changed, night fell, and still no light. We chased it up until finally there was light.
- **Vegetation Clearance:** Wilderness residents spot troublesome vegetation and figure there's one municipal department to call. Turns out that's not quite so. Here's the story:
 - ⇒ Vegetation that impinges on electrical supply and streetlamps is handled by Electro-Technical Services. Call or write Cuan Edick 044 874 3917, cuan@george.org.za.
 - ⇒ Vegetation that constricts storm drainage and roads is handled by the Streets and Storm-water Division of Civil Engineering Services. Call or write Lionel Daniels 044 801 9260, lionel@george.org.za. For water and sewage related problems, call or write Henry Jansen 044 801 9357, henry@george.org.za.
 - ⇒ Vegetation that impacts on general traffic visibility (such as from a narrowed road or an obscured road sign) is handled by the traffic department. This department is responsible for the protection of the driving surface. Call or write Donovan Saptoe at 044 801 2342, donovan@george.org.za.
 - ⇒ Vegetation that impacts on roads is handled by the Parks and Recreation Division (part of the Environmental Affairs and Sports Department) on behalf of the agency responsible for the given road. Call or write Parks at 044 891 6315, parks@george.org.za.

NOTE: It is usually more effective to **e-mail** officials as they are frequently out of the office. Residents can also go to www.george.org.za, click on *Documents*, then *general docs*, go to environmental services and choose a topic.

- **N2 Upgrade:** please visit the WRRRA website at wrra.co.za and read about the N2 upgrade and the positive impact on Wilderness. (Circle at N2/George Rd, road upgrades at Village entrance and a dual carriage way to come !



Traffic, Roads, Pavements and signage

- The potholes in the village have been repaired.
- Most of the stop street signage is fine, it is just **people** who do not obey the traffic signs!
- A request for more wheelchair friendly pavement ramps in the CBD is being forwarded to the Municipality.

Team of municipal workers clearing along the railway line June 17th

Environmental Feedback

In May, Chris Burlock (WRRRA Environmental portfolio), attended the quarterly, 5 hour long **Eden District Coastal Committee meeting**. This is a get-together of some 21 coastal and marine experts and National, Provincial and local Municipal representatives and includes Cape Nature, SANParks, DEADP, DAFF and DWS.

Points discussed of interest to Wilderness were:



- **NSIR** have been holding whale beaching and **whale disentanglement workshops**. Should anyone spot a whale tangled in fishing nets, please contact NSIR, Plettenberg Bay.

- **DEADP is currently financing an Estuary Management Plan that will include the Garden Route.** *(These plans are essential to avoid unwise actions such as the situation in Durban where the Umgeni River was dredged and the sand sold off for R1 per cu.m. No longer naturally filled up with river sand, the beaches are now shrinking forcing the purchase of sand R3 per cu.m.!)*

- **Newly developed coastal ‘set back’ zones** have been mapped for the West Coast, Cape Town and Overstrand. Next is the Garden Route.

Coastal areas are being mapped in terms of sea and sand risks with RED zones being at highest risk (nearest the sea and possibly faced with 20 year events), then medium risk ORANGE zones (50 year events), and low risk YELLOW zones (100 year events). Future development in each colour zone will have to adhere to the building codes suitable for the risk profile.

Google **DEA & DP OVERSTRAND COASTAL MANAGEMENT APP** and zoom into a coastal town like Pringle Bay to see the red, orange, red zones. Makes you wonder what zones our coastal properties will find themselves in!



- **George Municipality is working with the SA Paragliders Association in moving towards a solution to the closed launch site in Klienkrantz.**

Environmental Feedback continued

- **Working for the Coast'** is underfunded and will only be operational 6 months of the year which means that Municipalities (**AND SURELY ALL BEACH USERS?**) are responsible for cleaning beaches in the 'off' months. WfW should be cleaning our beaches from 1 December 2016 to the end of January 2017.



- **It looks unlikely that Eden will pursue Blue Flag status next year.** Costs, including the WESSA application (R28 000), water tests and the life savers mount to some R150 000.



As a result of the superb presentation by **Jeannine McManus of the Landmark Foundation**, WRAA is

going to send motivations to Cape Nature and government supporting the **banning of gin traps**, and to supermarkets to support **FAIR-GAME** farmers.



**Debate as to whether this Wilderness dog really needs to be on a leash ?
What do you think ?**

Wilderness

More about concerned and involved individuals:

A team of community minded GAP Consulting employees complete an outreach project every month and in May they decided to come down and do a "Beach Clean-up" on Wilderness beach. A big Wilderness Thank You to Daniella Marais and the enthusiastic GAP team !.



Wouldn't it be great if we took a leaf out of their book and next time you walk on the beach, take a plastic bag and pick up litter ?

What would be better is that no-one drops litter !

Safety and Security

- Additional safety signs will be erected at Dolphins Point view sights warning sightseers to be vigilant and to be aware that the area is a *high mugging* area.
- The May Wilderness police forum meeting was well attended. Some points highlighted :
 - Housebreaking is becoming a problem. The incidents usually happen during daylight, Areas hit were located on Lake Road , Remskoon ,Dunes, Whytes Road and four incidents in Wilderness. Be vigilant, test your alarms systems and **SWITCH** your alarm on when you go out or to bed !
 - Heads up ! It seems that the small blue remote used to open automatic garage doors is also used by thieves to jam your car's autolocking system. Make sure your car is locked properly before you leave you car.
 - Join your street's WhatsApp Security Group. See page 4 for details.

Dates to Diarise:



Don't miss DAVID BRADFIELD's fascinating talk on his nine years in AFGHANISTAN, researching and helping to establish and manage vital National Parks and Wildlife Reserves.



THURS 30 JUNE 6.30 for 7.00pm
WILDERNESS HOTEL & SPA.



Brought to you by WRRRA.
Members R10 Non-Members R20
Cash bar.

Wilderness WOOF-athon!

& SUMMER FESTIVAL!

Saturday 26th November 2016,
Wilderness Common

Back and better than ever!
Yes, there will be the traditional **MASS DOGGIE BEACH WALK** and Yes, we will have the **FUN DOG SHOWS** every proud dog owner loves.

But there will also be **YUMMY FOOD & DRINK STALLS**, INTERESTING INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER LOCAL CHARITIES & ORGANISATIONS, and **FUN BARGAINS** to be snapped up at the **SPCA CHARITY SHOP STALL & AUCTION!**

This will truly be a Wilderness event and not just dog lovers. Ideas are flowing to make this a special day. If you have helped with WOOF-athons in the past or would like to get involved this time, please contact Sigi sigwilcox@mweb.co.za.



In aid of the **Garden Route**



Free computer lessons for WRRRA members!

Doug Wilcox, who put together and maintains the WRRRA website, has over 40 years of large computer systems development experience. He has also worked with all versions of Windows from its earliest days. He is just completing a course which was offered to U3A members.

The course will last for approximately 8 lessons/workshops with a few additional if required to suit the objectives of students. Each lesson will be about 2 hours, to be held every Thursday at 10:00 starting July 14th. The course will be held in Wilderness and limited to 8 people.

You will need a laptop computer running Windows 7, 8, or 10. Topics will include the following:

- Basics of the software and hardware of a computer
- Maintaining the software and health of the computer
- Windows filing structure and how to organise the filing of your documents etc.
- Manipulating the windows
- How the internet works, searching, bookmarks, and saving web pages
- Spreadsheets
- Word Processing
- Other topics requested by the participants.



These lessons should help participants with other computer applications such as emailing and social platforms.

Limited space still available.

Contact Doug at dougwilcox.rsa@gmail.com

Put these important numbers into your cell phones and stick them on your fridge NOW!

ALL George Municipality Emergencies 044 801 6300

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

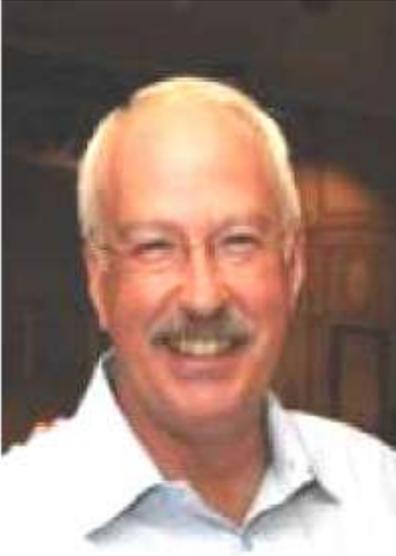
Snake Removal : Hennie 082 972 2232 / Nick 083 262 5934 / Gerhard 076 777 3909

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

The Last Word



Having just returned from a trip to the Netherlands and living with family there albeit for just a month, I had the brief opportunity to experience a country as a “resident” rather than as a tourist. Of course there are both similarities and striking differences between “here” and “there”. Perhaps the one that made the biggest impression is one of efficiency and mechanisation. Jobs like petrol attendants, “packers” at supermarkets just don’t exist and can you imagine just a single person on a fully automated and radio controlled waste removal truck? How sad is it that I was so impressed I even took a video of it! Of course you have to make a bit of effort yourself – your daily rubbish needs to be taken (by you) to a collection point at the end of your street and as your self-packed purchases are going to fit into the panniers on your bicycle for you to cycle home with, plastic bags are not only not for sale, they are non-existent! Apart from general kitchen waste, each home has 3 separate recycling bins for garden refuse, plastic and paper that’s collected twice a month – again at the end of the street.

Cycling is an absolute pleasure on the flat, mostly purpose-built and well lit cycle paths between the pedestrian pavements and the roads. In towns, bicycles have the right of way! What was also interesting is that in towns, the general speed limit is 30 kph with speed “bumps” every 50 metres. The end result, nobody speeds and there seems to be no rush to get where you are going. Even the 5 lane freeway to Schipol Airport has a 100 kph limit during day time and we travelled most of the 40 km next to the exact same car! In a month, we never witnessed or came across a single motor vehicle accident!

I am sure that the number of dogs per household there must be pretty close to ours and yet, given their complete lack of gardens, never saw a single “poop” on a pavement or in a park! Are their dogs different from ours?

Why, in the middle of Europe, is the pace of life slower than it is here in Wilderness? Is it because most of us have come here from the bustling cites of SA and are determined to get the parking spot right outside the front door of the shop we’re going to? Or worse still, are we just hell-bent on making sure nobody else gets that parking spot? Why are they just as successful people in all facets of life as we are and yet we seem determined to press the self-destruct button at every opportunity?

If we are going to keep Wilderness and its suburbs clean, safe and friendly, we need to examine why we put out our rubbish before collection day, have blatant disregard for the laws of the road, turn a blind eye to our dog’s litter etc. What makes us think we are “above” our neighbour or that we have no responsibility or accountability to anyone other than ourselves?

To travel is indeed a privilege but it also gives us an opportunity to learn from the experience and in some way, use them to bring about positive changes in the place we call home.

Cheers

Neville