



Thanks to all our members who have renewed their subs.
New or still need to pay?
Please find details on the WRRRA web site
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 July 2016



Ahh! The good old Days!

SAR Brill Bus near where the Wilderness Hotel is today, circa 1956. Courtesy Herman Labuschagne

CRIME IN WILDERNESS!

See pg3



Wilderness WATER Quality?
See pg 5



LAT-EST UPDATE
See pg 10



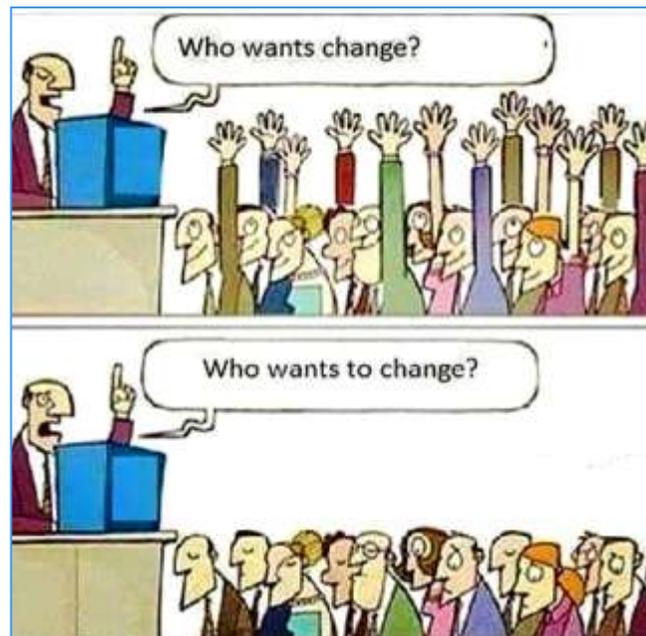
APPEALING TO ALL WILDERNESS BUSINESSES - YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT!

Deirdre Marcus recently joined the Wilderness Residents and Ratepayers Association (WRRRA), to look after the Tourism portfolio.

As it is important WRRRA gets feedback and ideas on how it can better assist local businesses, Deirdre has emailed the Wilderness business community in the form of an online survey programme, Survey Monkey. .. but to date, just 4 responses have been received!



Only by getting your feedback can we at the WRRRA be more relevant to our community.



Interested in what the Department of Human Settlements has in store for Wilderness ?

Visit our WRRRA website wrra.co.za, click on the Featured Article entitled "Wilderness Spatial Development Plan 2015" This makes interesting reading. Thank you Stephan Large of Wilderness Heights who sent us the link.



Got a photo or news you'd like to share with WRRRA members? Please send them to wrra@tiscali.co.za and we'll try to fit them in!



Estelle 083 292 1190



Over and above the many sterilizations, dewormings, vaccinations and weekly dippings, Estelle le Roux and Mattie Masane have been battling a severe outbreak of Distemper in Wilderness' informal settlements. (The SPCA reports a similar crisis in George.)

Such outbreaks are due to owners not vaccinating their dogs sufficiently, ie. at 8 weeks, 12 weeks, 16 weeks, 1 year and every 3 years thereafter.

Distemper is a highly contagious virus **with no cure**. Symptoms include a high fever (> 39.7° C), and a discharge from nose and eyes. An infected dog will become lethargic and anorexic. Persistent coughing, vomiting and diarrhoea may occur. In the later stages, the virus can attack the nervous system and result in fits, seizures, paralysis and often death.

Estelle asks that you Please check your pet's vaccinations are up to date.

PAWS is a 2 woman team who help animals in the underprivileged areas of Wilderness, easing the load on the SPCA and PDSA. Estelle self-funds the operation's costs, petrol, etc. If you can help with any contribution, deposit to the WRRRA bank account using the reference: PAWS.

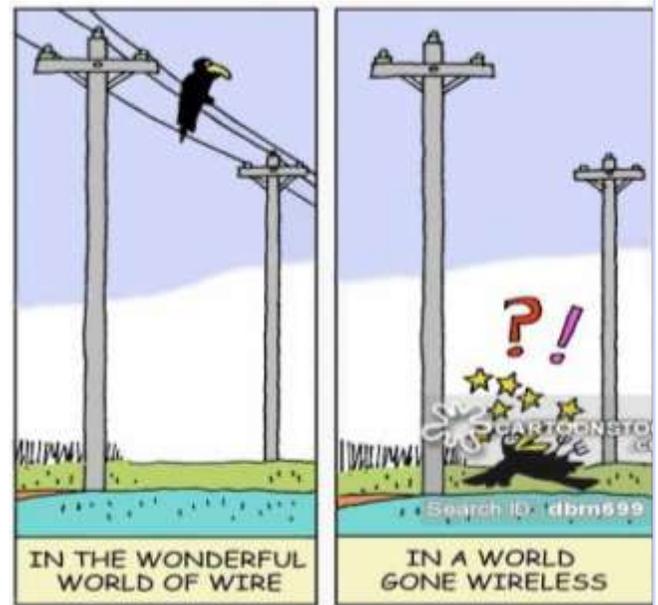
Limberlost Lane Power lines:

Question: More information on the 'putting powerlines underground' project going on along Limberlost Lane, please?

Answer: The municipality is installing the underground cable on Limberlost Lane in order to replace the overhead cables.

The supporting poles for the overhead cables are no longer in good condition.

This also avoids the never-ending problem of trees affecting the power supply.



Wilderness Improvement Program and Services Updates

- ⇒ Streetlights repaired: **in the vicinity of the Spar, the Post Office, and next to Dr Vos's rooms.**
- ⇒ Sewerage smell on the corner of Limberlost and Waterside road: team at site worked into the evening of 5 July to complete the repair.
- ⇒ Stormwater drainage on Kranz Lane: intend to do before 8 July. Residents in the area, please let us know if this has been attended to at wrra.co.za
- ⇒ Vegetation that impinges on electrical supply and streetlamps is handled by Electro-Technical Services. Contact 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.
- ⇒ Illegal Dumping: If you spot what you think is illegal dumping, email the details to ilse@george.org.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



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.



Just how GOOD is our Wilderness Water?

The answer is—very good! The George Municipality collects and analyses water samples daily at the Wilderness Water Works at Ebb-and-Flow. Water samples are even more thoroughly tested and analysed weekly at the George Municipal Laboratory Services in Pacalsdorp. The monthly *Drinking Water Certificate of Analysis*, prepared according to national standards, shows results for physical and aesthetic requirements, chemical requirements (both macro and micro-determinants), microbiological, and other factors. A review of a year of certificates makes clear that our water is below and in most case well below the limits established for Chronic Health, Aesthetic, and Operational risks. For instance, the Chronic Health risk of iron, measuring 27 micrograms per litre, is very well below the standard of <2000 micrograms per litre.

If you notice that your tap water from the municipality is milky, and that the milkiness disappears to the top of a glass as the water becomes clear again in a couple of minutes, it is likely that air is trapped in the pipeline, possibly after a burst pipe. So no worries about the water. (If you know about a burst pipe, please report it straight away.) If, however, you notice the water is milky and the deposit settles to the bottom, the water may be contaminated. Such contamination has not occurred in our water for many years and there is no reason to expect it now, but if you are concerned about it, you should report it to the municipal call centre 044 801 9266.

The Manager of the Laboratory Services, Geoffrey Bredenkamp, would be glad to answer your questions (044 801 9326) as would Fred Goliath, the Senior Manager, Water Treatment Plant (044 803 9264).



Very interesting Website:

World history in 2 minutes.

Seventeen year old Joe Bush got a high school assignment to make a video reproduction. He chose history as a theme and tucked it all into two minutes. Joe took pictures from the internet; added the sound track "Mind Heist" by Zack Hemsey (from the movie Interception) and came up with this. Incredible work for a 17-year old. Just finding the pictures was a formidable task.

Hold on to your seat. This moves fast. Don't blink -- not even for a second & sound on.

<http://marcbrecy.perso.neuf.fr/history.html> <<http://marcbrecy.perso.neuf.fr/history.html>>



TOUWSRANTEN's 'CLUB FOR THE AGED' is in need of SCRAPS OF WOOL, FABRICS, CROCHET COTTON, etc for their handcraft projects ... please call MARLENE if you can help - 072 477 2297.

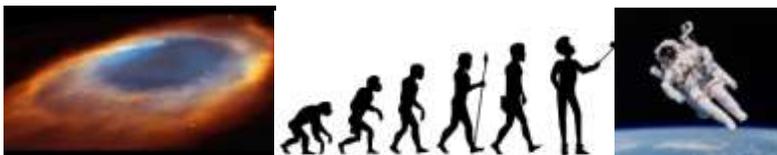


CLEANING OUT UNWANTED CLOTHES, KIDS TOYS, KITCHEN WARE, SHOES, BED LINEN, CURTAINS, RUGS, TOOLS, etc, etc, etc.?

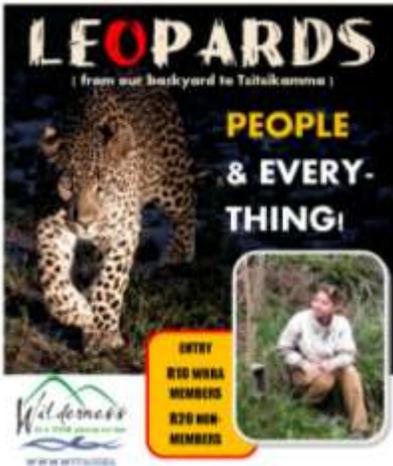


The Garden Route SPCA Charity Shops will turn your donation into much needed help for animals in need!

Please drop donations at the shops (York Mall Arcade, just below Standard Bank, York St. 10am-4.30pm daily) or if too much, call BETTIE to arrange collection - 071 353 7288.



WRRRA Environmental Feedback



CAMPAIGNING AGAINST GIN-TRAPS:

Following the outstanding talk on leopards by Jeannine McManus of the Landmark Foundation, WRRRA agreed to write to the Western Cape Government and Cape Nature to ask for legislation to be changed to ban the sale and use of gin traps.

At a subsequent WRRRA meeting it was decided to escalate the impact by recruiting ALL Western Cape Resident and Ratepayers Associations to petition for the ban. We will include the research results that prove the greater efficiency and cost effectiveness of using collars, guard dogs and alpacas as stock protection, and the figures of harmless, non-predatory animals (such as porcupines and buck) that are tragically killed in gin-traps.



PARAGLIDING SITE UPDATE:

At our last WRRRA committee meeting, George Municipality's Radie Loubser reported that the Municipality is being forced to rehabilitate the dunes at the paragliding launch site east of Klienkrantz. There is, however a sunset clause that will allow paragliding to take place this coming season. Access by quad-bikes, horses, etc. will be stopped immediately.

ALIEN CLEARING:

Several Wilderness landowners have been angered and confused by notices to clear their properties of black wattle and other alien invasives. At the last WRRRA meeting, Radie Loubser from the George municipality confirmed that land owners should have lodged an Alien Clearing Management Plan within 3 years of the DEA publishing the amended AIS (Alien and Invasive Species) regulations in August 2014. As most landowners are not sure what is required by such a plan, Radie is working in a template which WRRRA and the George municipality will publish on their web sites as soon as it is available.

In the mean time, Priscilla Burgyone of the Garden Route Botanical Gardens has a few bags of Biocontrol for Black Wattle. To get some and for more information, contact Priscilla on herbariumcurator@botanicalgarden.org.za



GREAT NEWS ! YES TO BLUE FLAG STATUS !



Vernon Gibbs-Hall has advised that after careful consideration and upon instruction from our Council, Eden Municipality have proceeded with a full Blue Flag status application for Wilderness to be called the **Wilderness Tourism Blue Flag**". This status brings an array of benefits which include job creation to maintain infrastructure, buildings, training etc.

Unfortunately we are soon to lose Vernon Gibbs-Hall to a 3 year appointment oversea. Vernon has been a super-hero for the Eden environment. He has praised WRRRA at various provincial meetings as being one of Eden's most pro-active residents and ratepayers associations!

John Miller organizes the highly interesting WRRRA talks.
For those who missed David Bradfield's lecture, here's a short insight...

Conservation in Afghanistan

Afghanistan = war and conflict and danger. No, how about, Afghanistan = wildlife and national parks and tourism. That's the Afghanistan that an enchanted crowd of about 80 heard at the Wilderness Hotel on 30 June. Presented by the WRRRA, David Bradfield told a most surprising and fascinating story of his work in Afghanistan over the last nine years with the Wildlife Conservation Society. From the Band-e-Amir National Park in the Hindu Kush Mountains to the Wakhan National Park in the far northeast, Bradfield spoke about his work with the Afghan government, providing technical advice, developing protection policies and operational plans for newly established and proposed protected areas, carrying out field **ranger training, and helping to protect the country's flagship species** – Snow Leopard, Marco Polo Sheep, Urial

Sheep, Ibex Sheep, Brown Bear and Grey Wolf.

While Bradfield's formal assistance was vital, it was his account of his lengthy back-country sojourns on foot and horseback that was most captivating. For instance, the Persian Leopard had been declared extinct in Afghanistan, but with **Bradfield's tracking skills and local guides, their camera traps discovered one, a most notable achievement.**

Bradfield, raised on a farm in the Eastern Cape and resident now of Little Brak River, talked about important community participation, painless donor assistance, and very supportive national and provincial governments.

Band-e-Amir is the country's first National Park. A collection of six stunning blue lakes at an elevation of 3,000 metres, it is destined to become Central Asia's foremost international tourist destination. Bradfield was instrumental in the park's establishment in 2009 and the preparation of the physical development plan that serves to protect the park. He led the effort to train and employ women rangers, a significant break from traditional culture.



David Bradfield (far right) meets with Afghan villagers.

Many village residents now benefit from new sources of employment and the US\$100,000 annual proceeds of the new tourism activities and facilities are distributed equitably among 15 villages. There are now campsites, ecological restoration, hiking trails, boating, and much more to attract visitors, all of which benefits local businesses as well.

Prior to his work in Afghanistan, Bradfield worked three years in Liwonde National Park in Malawi for the Frankfurt Zoological Society, followed by four years in the Cambodia Cardamom Mountains for Fauna and Flora International.

He'll be soon off on his next assignment for the Wildlife Conservation Society to the Niassa National Reserve in northern Mozambique, very different but no less challenging than helping preserve Afghanistan's wildlife.

Councillor Marlene Viljoen, DA ward candidate for 3 August, thoroughly enjoyed the talk. **"I believe that the WRRRA talks are quite exceptional, really adding value here in our 'town'. The topics are diverse and at some stage there should be a topic that speaks to everybody's interests."**

David kindly declined his speakers gift and asked it to be donated to the benefit of the Wilderness community.

It was decided to put it towards rain-gear and torches etc. for our Village Monitors who clean and safeguard our village centre. Thank you, David!



PLEASE PROMINENTLY DISPLAY
YOUR STAND NUMBER ON
YOUR HOUSE.

Help SAPS and emergency vehicles
find you.

This may well save a life.



Dates to Diarise:



Get freezin' for a reason!

Hit the beach this winter and earn bragging rights at the first ever dotsure.co.za Polar Bear Plunge. With so many homeless and underprivileged people struggling to stay warm as the cold weather takes hold, dotsure.co.za has been inspired to launch the Polar Bear Plunge as a way to show solidarity and offer practical help to those in need in the Eden district. We're urging the community to take the plunge with dotsure.co.za and help us collect as many blankets as possible for the less fortunate. As such your entry fee is to warm someone's winter by donating a blanket.

Tackle our chilly obstacle course or the icy foot challenge on the beach – or even take a proper dip and show you care by spreading a little warmth this winter!

Enter today on

<https://www.dotsure.co.za/polar-bear-plunge>



WRRRA is assisting the SPCA with its annual WOOF-athon in November. This year there'll be the addition of a FUNFEST of arts, crafts, Xmas fare stalls and more!
If you want to participate, please email Sigi:

sigiwilcox@mweb.co.za

Wilderness WOOF-athon!
and summer **FUNFEST**
SAT 26 NOV
Wilderness Village Green
8.00 am – 1.00 pm All dogs to be on leash!

8.00 Registration R5 per foot/paw
9.00 Mass doggie BEACH walk
10.00 Enter our Fun dog shows

STALLS BARGAINS ARTS CRAFTS
GAMES DOG AGILITY DISPLAY
YUMMY TREATS & DRINKS

Please come and support the **GARDEN ROUTE SPCA**

DBV SPCA

Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.

Anthony J. D'Angelo

Council News

At the July WRRR meeting, Councilor Leon van Wyk advised that the WRRR application for EPWP financial assistance with wages for our Wilderness Village Monitor program has been renewed for a further three months, to the end of September 2016.

The cost of running the Village Monitor program (part of the WRRR's Wilderness Improvement Program) is funded only by the revenue derived from the WRRR selling advertising space on the wall below the N2 that overlooks the public parking at the petrol station. As we are all aware, costs of everything has escalated and the George Municipality contribution has given some welcome temporary relief to the Wilderness Improvement Program coffers. The long term sustainability of adequately funding the Monitor program is a concern of the committee and the funding mechanism needs to be reviewed.



Embrace Technology



Embrace our Environment



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](http://wrra.co.za/images/stories/PDF/Contacts/Municipal%20Contacts.pdf)

The Last Word



N2

Towards the end of last year, many of our members took the trouble to give input as to what improvements were needed along our stretch of the N2. These were submitted to SANRAL who in turn forwarded them on to the consulting engineers. It should be noted that all national roads are on a repair/review/upgrade schedule and if **“our” section of the N2 was not improved now, it would probably be at least 10 – 15 years** before it would get to the top of the list again, so this is our golden opportunity.

On Wednesday 6 July, a number of your committee and other members of WRRRA attended the briefing held by the consulting engineers at the municipal offices. Some of the discussions centered around the following:

The proposed closure of Station Road will certainly be revisited as this provides critical access for emergency vehicles on the very popular stretch of beach. Besides, the congestion at the entrance to Sands Rd would only be aggravated if Station Rd was closed. However, the access to and from Station Rd will probably only be from the southern lane of the N2 – thus eliminating motorists from turning in front of on-coming vehicles.

The proposed circle at the entrance to the village will require a transfer of land from Transnet to SANRAL and this will have to be completed before the circle and new entrance to the village can be constructed. We are monitoring the possible impact that this might have on parking in front of the post boxes but this appears to be minimal.

In an effort to address dangers brought about by the many entrances of minor roads onto the N2, **there will be a 5 metre hard “island” between the opposing lanes.** This will provide motorists (cars) with a safe “holding position” before turning right onto or off the N2.

The Hoekwil intersection **was to have lost its “acceleration” lane and simply be as all other minor road intersections.** However, because of the logging and dairy trucks on this section, the “safe holding” position of a 5 metre hard island would be inadequate. The engineers fully supported retaining the current access design at this intersection to accommodate these vehicles despite the concept of joining the “fast lane” is not considered best practice.

The general speed restrictions have proved to be relatively ineffective in limiting speeding and the number of fatalities on the N2. In keeping with the practice that has been rolled out to many high-risk areas, **it is proposed that a system of “average speed over distance” will be implemented as well as targeted speed cameras being used just before entering traffic circles.**

There are still a number of areas that will need consideration/possible changing but it was the willingness to listen to what our members had to say that made the process very positive. The upgrade work should start in the 2nd quarter of 2017 and we have been assured that disruptions to traffic flow will be minimised as at least one unrestricted lane in each direction is envisaged.

Cheers

Neville Ewing, WRRRA Chairperson