



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](http://wrra.co.za)

Wilderness Ratepayers and Residents Association, Wilderness, Western Cape, South Africa, 6560  
[wrra@tiscali.co.za](mailto:wrra@tiscali.co.za) 082 895 6317 [www.wrra.co.za](http://www.wrra.co.za)

## WRRRA NEWS August 2016



The tragedy that brought Wilderness together!

**Wilderness  
Wake Up Call  
Pg 2**

**Wilderness gets  
BLUE FLAG  
BACK! Pg 5**

**Don't miss the  
next WRRRA Talk  
Pg10**

# Wilderness Wake up Call!

“Hindsight is an exact Science”  
( Guy Bellamy)

## **FIRE EMERGENCY 044 801 6300**

- Is your home insured against fire ?
- Is your home in a fire zone ?
- Have you cleared the invasive alien plants around your home ?
- Have you cleared your roof gutters ?
- Adjacent un-cleared and overgrown vacant plots pose a fire threat.
- Tinder dry garden refuse dumped on vacant stands make an extremely efficient fire accelerant. Be a responsible neighbour. **DON'T DUMP ILLEGALLY**
- Landowners are responsible for what grows on their own land.
- Do you have an evacuation plan ?
- Do you have a fire fighting plan ?
- If you have time, what do you evacuate ?
- Fire hydrants are used to **REFILL** fire-engines, not fight home fires,. Thus there does **NOT** have to be a hydrant at every home.
- Can you get help and updates via your street's WhatsApp Group ?
- Why have you not joined the Group ?
- Do you have an off site backup for your computers files ? (Googlecloud is **FREE**.)



*Photos courtesy of Southern Cape Fire Protection Association*

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

### CRIME IS BECOMING A PROBLEM IN WILDERNESS ! SECURITY IS YOUR CONCERN!

Do you have an Alarm ?    Is your alarm in working order?    Do you switch it on ?

- **Check out a new item on Security Advice on our WRRRA website: Select the blue "Security" tab on the top right hand side of the homepage.**

Johann Badenhorst, a regular at the monthly Police Forum, is contributing a series of articles based on his personal research into security devices and systems. The articles will cover security systems, CCTV, pepper sprays, and much more.

- Does your street/neighbourhood have a Security WhatsApp Group ? Join it! If not, start one NOW ! The Wilderness Heights WhatsApp Group is starting to really make a difference to residents.
- Mark or Datadot <https://www.datadot.co.za> your possessions. Without proof > No convictions!  
Use technology: Install Alarms, perimeter alarms, CCTV cameras.
- Report suspicious people, cars, activities: SAPS needs your eyes, SAPS cannot be everywhere!  
Pepper sprays makes a difference: Keep them handy at your outside door entrances.  
Become part of the Community: Know your neighbours. Attend the Police Forum meetings.

### Whatsapp is key to neighbourhood security.

**If you have not joined your local group, please do so!**

**If you don't know how to get Whatsapp on your cellphone, please call your administrator for help.**

**ONLY SECURITY MESSAGING ALLOWED – NO SOCIAL CHATTER!**

### Wilderness 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 <a href="#">Constantia Kloof</a>	Join ConsKloofSecurity	SMS Donald	083 251 8401
On <a href="#">Sands Road</a>	Join SandsRoadSecurity	SMS Lucy	076 903 0257
In <a href="#">Wilderness Heights</a>	Join HeightsWatch	SMS Roy	082 060 7474
In <a href="#">Wilderness East</a>	<b>Join 'WECAN' Wilderness</b>	<b>SMS</b> Estelle	083 292 1190
In <a href="#">Kingfisher Close</a>	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](mailto:wrra@tiscali.co.za) to add to this list of administrators.

## APPEALING TO ALL WILDERNESS BUSINESSES -

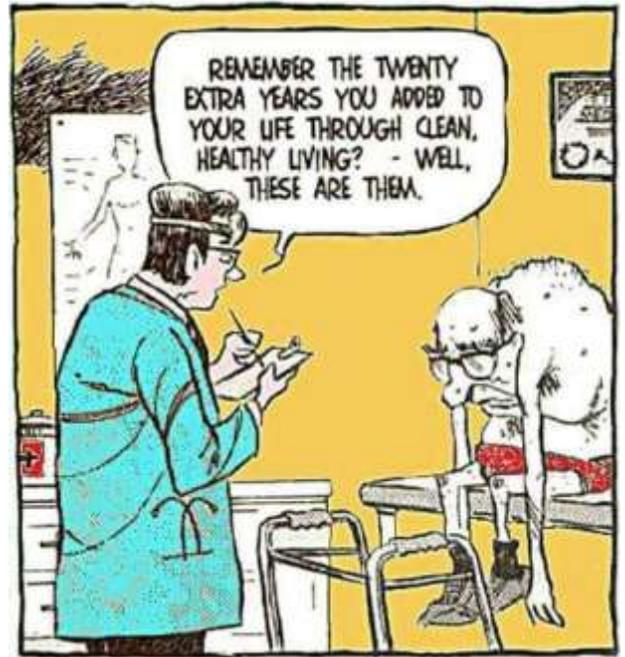
### YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT!

Deirdre Marcus recently joined the Wilderness Residents and Ratepayers Association 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.



Estelle would like to thank the kind and generous anonymous donor for their much needed contribution to PAWS.

Having vaccinated most of the unvaccinated Heights dogs, 4 weeks later they were all due their **vital follow-up jabs**...and at **R60 per vaccination**, Estelle was worried that none of the owners could afford this crucial second jab!

**So the R2000 donation was literally a life-saver! There has been no new case of distemper for 4 weeks!**

Estelle would also like to thank Annalie Cable of the Hope Church in the Heights who has her staff report any sick animals in need of help. Thanks to these reports 3 more kittens are going to be sterilized this month.



With temperatures rising, ticks are making an appearance again!

Thanks to a donation of spot-on treatments from Vet-Care, George, dogs and pups in the Heights and Kleinkrantz were protected during winter when it's often too wet and cold to dip. Now dipping will restart in earnest with PAWS dipping some 40 dogs monthly.

**Did you know that Biliary (*Babesia sp*) is the biggest killer of dogs in SA? But if you remove a tick within some 24 hours of it biting, (before it becomes engorged), your dog will probably not be infected. But if you can't check your dog daily, please speak to your vet about the best tick and flea protection.**

**The *Babesia* parasite needs fresh blood to develop and multiply before it spreads throughout the tick's intestinal cells and invade various organs of the tick including the ovaries of the female— therefore the ±18 000 eggs she lays are all carriers!**

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, medicines, petrol, etc. If you can help with any contribution, deposit to the WRRRA bank account using the reference: PAWS.

# Wilderness gets TOURISM BLUE FLAG BEACH status!

Thanks to Eden District funding the Blue Flag Beach application, Wilderness should be awarded a "Tourism Blue Flag" on 30 September.

In addition to the internationally recognized Blue Flag, Wilderness will be boosted by the addition of seven 'Beach Stewards', part of a pioneering Extended Public Works Programme launched by the Department of Tourism. Selected from a huge number of local applicants, these young Matriculants will receive 28 months of training plus employment which should result in them receiving an official Environmental Education Development and Training Certificate.

Their roles are not finalized yet, but our Beach Stewards will not be 'labourers' but rather help beach users maximize their enjoyment of their experience.

They will also be able to gather information of use to our local businesses such as where our visitors come from and what facilities they require.



Above: Radie Laubser (George Municipality), Mussimo Marriotti, Sandra Taljaard (SANParks), Vernon Gibbs-Halls (Eden), Rob Slater (WESSA), Chris Burlock (WRRRA), Jonathan Britton (SANParks)



## BLACK WATTLE?

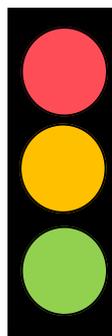
See the WRRRA website

[www.wrrra.co.za](http://www.wrrra.co.za)

for info on how to get FREE biological control agents now! Lets help the fight against this invader!

## WRRRA's

### RED, ORANGE, GREEN 'DOG ZONES' proposal gets Eden GO ahead!



Vernon Gibbs-Halls gave WRRRA the go ahead to implement its easy to understand dog zone signage. Evidently Madeline la Ros of DEADP declared the proposed system should be used internationally!

Red zones = NO DOGS ALLOWED

Orange zones = DOGS ALLOWED WITH CONDITIONS

Green zones = DOGS ALLOWED OFF LEASH

WRRRA is working with SANParks and George Municipality on the final zone areas and signage.



### Become a WRRRA member

(Wilderness Ratepayers & Residents Association). Just R150 pa.

- Help influence municipal decisions
- Receive emergency alerts
- Help keep the village clean and safe
- Have access to news and talks of interest

Go to [www.wrrra.co.za](http://www.wrrra.co.za) for details  
or call Vanessa 082 895 6317





The WRRRA and HRRRA have initiated a local employment initiative called **“Support Our Skills” (SOS)**.

The WRRRA & HRRRA have begun compiling a list of locally available skilled artisans and workers, so that local residents have an opportunity to earn a living.

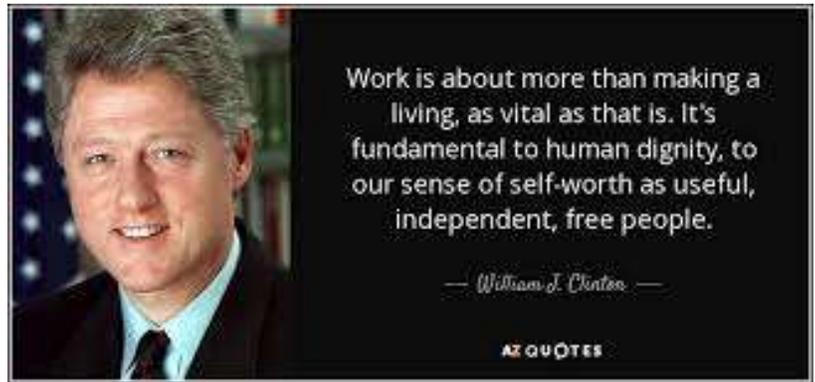
**Not only will this help skilled locals... but by reducing un-employment, the end result will help reduce petty crime!**

So, if you have had good services from a LOCAL artisan and you would be prepared to give them a reference, please drop an email to [wrra@tiscali.co.za](mailto:wrra@tiscali.co.za) and we will gladly add the artisan’s name and skill to the list. Please send an email with the following information:

EXAMPLE

<u>Skill</u>	<u>Worker’s Name</u>	<u>Worker’s cell no.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Your Name</u>	<u>Your cell no</u>
Builder	Jack	0886781230	Hoekwil	James	0883457890
Gardener	Jim	0996781231	Kleinkrantz	Neville	0833457891
Plasterer	John	0996781232	Wilderness	Donald	0833457892

The information will be available on the WRRRA website: [www.wrra.co.za](http://www.wrra.co.za) and will be constantly updated. Depending on your support, we can begin to create an opportunity for our fellow Wilderness and Hoekwil residents to earn an honest day’s wage. This is clearly to everyone’s benefit. A screening mechanism will be implemented that should help to grow peace of mind amongst our residents to continue using this database.



## Appeals against Vleie Waste Site

**versus**

## Residents dumping on Wilderness stands

A rather sad state of affairs in Wilderness

On the one hand, in the Vleie we have an extremely active and vocal opposition to creating a dump site for **building rubble and garden refuse ... and on the other hand we have we have irresponsible Wilderness residents dumping their garden refuse onto adjoining vacant sites or empty erf across the road!** .

There is NO QUESTION this tinder dry garden refuse acted as a fire accelerant in our recent devastating fires.

**Ask yourself , did contribute to the devastation ?**

Time to name and shame, If you see someone dumping, send a photo to [wrra.tiscali.co.za](mailto:wrra.tiscali.co.za)

# Hoekwil Country Market

A Country Market will be held on the 1st Saturday of every month at the Hoekwil Primary from 9 till 1pm. The next one is on the 3rd September. This is a platform to sell ANYTHING (except alcohol, guns, ammo and fireworks)! Dogs on leashes are also welcome! Contact Mariëtte Künkel on 082 472 0922 or 044 850 1058 or [mmk692@gmail.com](mailto:mmk692@gmail.com)



## Wilderness Improvement Program and Services Updates

### Security improvement.

When WRRRA approached Martin Grotepass about erecting a light in the alley between the Wilderness Pharmacy and Dr Smit, he readily agreed to foot the electricity bill.

WRRRA will pay for the light and its installation.

After WRRRA's John Miller helped liaise with the Municipality over sewerage problems in Waterside Road, he received this *'Dear John'* letter:

*Dear John*

*Thank you so much for your help, the sewer problem at Limberlost & Waterside road was sorted.*

*Instead of them fixing Krantz Avenue they even paved the entire gravel road, such a BIG improvement.*

*Thank you once again*

*Kind Regards  
Madelyn Kholer*

### Proposed new Church on Erf 1782 Wilderness :

Wilderness Christian Fellowship is an interdenominational Christian group which started meeting many years ago in the **St. Aidan's Church building in Wilderness**, but has for the last number of years been meeting in halls kindly provided by, first the Wilderness Beach Hotel, and lately by the Wilderness Resort and Spa Hotel.

The congregation has now grown to need a meeting place of its own, and accordingly a property was sought on which to build a Church building.

Such a property was identified in Wilderness East where Erf 1782 was found to be zoned for public worship purposes and was of sufficient size to accommodate the 300 seat auditorium envisaged and the parking required to support such a building.

The property was acquired and cleared of all unwanted growth, and planning is in progress to design a suitable building for the Fellowship on the site. It is intended that the design of the auditorium should allow for the multifunctional use thereof in the interests of the Wilderness Community.

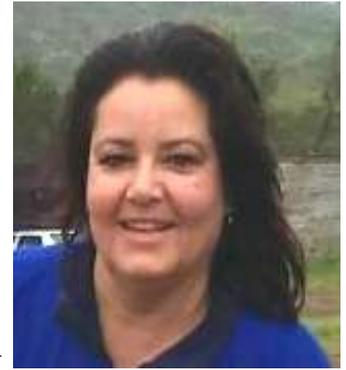
While the earthworks may commence within the next few months preparing access from Cedric Avenue after Municipal approval has been obtained, building will take a little longer.

A Board has been erected on the site giving notice of the intended new home of the Fellowship. The notice gives telephone numbers for the use of interested parties who may wish to find out more about the Fellowship.

A Warm Wilderness Welcome to our new Ward 4 Councillor,  
Councillor Marlene Viljoen.

Marlene and her partner Cornell relocated from Kimberley, where Marlene was a senior municipal official and followed this with a 5 year appointment as a Provincial director for the DA in the Northern Cape. They made Wilderness their home in 2012 and in April 2013 Marlene was elected as a Proportional Councillor in George.

During her career, Marlene has served on various Committees, including Civil Engineering, Electrical Services, Local economic Development and Tourism (Strategic Services), Environmental Affairs and the Local Labour Forum. Marlene has an Honours Degree in Communication with political Science as a major subject. Marlene is also currently the President elect (2017/18) for the Rotary Club of George.



We wish Councillor Marlene a very happy and successful career as our Ward Councillor and look forward to interacting with her on the WRRRA.

## Council News

The WRRRA Committee is in consultation with Municipal and Emergency departments regarding the recent fire and will advise residents as soon as we have had official explanations and have been advised of plans for the future.

Some of the issues dealt with over the last month:

- Streetlights repaired: **Laila's Lane** and progress on fixing the lights behind the Police station
- **Jan Heyneke on Constantia Kloof's persistence paid off.** He has been paid out for damage done by erratic municipal controlled water pressure. Proof that the squeaky wheel gets the oil. Well done, Jan!
- Vegetation that impinges on electrical supply and streetlamps is handled by Electro-Technical Services. Contact Cuan Edick 044 874 3917, [cuan@george.org.za](mailto: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](mailto:lionel@george.org.za). For water and sewage related problems, call or write Henry Jansen 044 801 9357, [henry@george.org.za](mailto:henry@george.org.za).

## 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)

## "FLIGHT FOR BIRDERS"

BIRD IDENTIFICATION & CONSERVATION COURSE

8 & 9 SEPTEMBER 2016



'Flight for Birders' was developed to assist novices and experienced birdwatchers to become involved in birdwatching in a practical and sustainable way. Basic steps in the identification of birds will be highlighted and the identification of garden birds, water birds, birds of prey and more difficult species such as swallows, waders and 'little brown jobs' will be discussed systematically. The course is illustrated with more than 1,600 slides and drawings. Emphasis will be placed on the further development of the Garden Route region as a top birding destination. Important conservation issues will be discussed and details will be given on how ordinary birders could become involved in conservation actions. Costs include a practical outing, basic manuals and certificates endorsed by BirdLife South Africa. All other details available from Elaine – see below.

VENUE: NG Church Hall, Blancogemeente, George

**TIME: 8 and 9 September 2016, both at 09h00**



**COSTS: R 500-00 per head**

**To register contact Elaine at 082 455 8402 or [mwjasser@mweb.co.za](mailto:mwjasser@mweb.co.za)**

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:

5th October: Don't miss this extraordinary talk by an  
extraordinary Wilderness resident!

What is it like to Captain the  
**WORLD'S  
LARGEST  
VESSEL?**



Wilderness resident, **Captain Stuart McAllister**, is Ship  
Master on the iconic "Maersk McKinney-Moller". Come and  
hear about the development of Ultra Large Container Vessels  
and why they are revolutionising international shipping.

*Share his experiences on a carrier a quarter of a mile  
long and 6 times the size of the Titanic!*

**Wed 5 October - 6.30 for 7.00pm**

**Wilderness Hotel & Spa**



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

25 November: WRRRA is assisting the SPCA with  
its annual WOOF-athon fundraiser. 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](mailto:sigiwilcox@mweb.co.za)



**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



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

Anthony J. D'Angelo

## The Last Word



At the conclusion of our monthly committee meeting on 10 August, I was really looking forward to telling you all about the projects that we want to get done before the end of the year. I still will, but later.

Who was ever to imagine the tragedy that would unfold on Thursday afternoon that would shatter the peace and tranquility of Wilderness and in particular Wilderness East for a long time to come.

Looking out of my study window at the smoldering ashes that was once the playground of bushbuck and herons, I am still in shock – and I am one of the very lucky ones! The fire that ravaged the vlei took everyone by surprise. The event and results have been captured brilliantly by many photographers but the human pain and suffering will be with the community like we have never experienced before. Not even the floods that we have endured in the past are a patch on the what we experienced. As I have said before, to those of our community, be they members of the Association or not, our thoughts are with you and you can rely on all of us for support.



**Let's give an enormous round of applause for all the men and women of the disaster management teams for their efforts and for putting their lives in danger for us, not forgetting the chopper pilots who were nothing short of amazing. The teams were stretched to their limits having to deal with several fires across the area at the same time.**

WRRRA wanted to launch a relief fund but after consideration and in consultation with Shannon Smith we decided to support her relief initiative.

**("Fire Relief" ABSA George , Branch 632005, Account 4053208780.) Please contact Shannon on 082 304 9731 if you would like to contribute in any way.**

The event has taught us much about how nature has two faces, but it was the camaraderie of friends and neighbours that really stood out for me. I received a phone call from **Jonathan Britton, Sector Ranger from SANParks, who to quote said: "I was truly humbled to see the cooperation and spirit of your community under such difficult circumstances"**.

No doubt there are things that we all need to do better – if not just to be more aware of identifying risks around us. In the past the focus has been on crime and crime prevention, **now it's fire.** Unfortunately, risk management and risk mitigation must form part of our daily lives if we are to live in peace.

But on to happier things: WRRRA is implementing a number of projects between now **and the season which we hope will add to your Wilderness "experience"**. These include more refuse bins in the vicinity of the village green and boardwalk, finishing the work we started almost two years ago on the Wilderness Police Station, appropriate dog poo signs and bag dispensers around the village green, clearing of the bush on Waterside Road so that pedestrians and motorists can better appreciate a view of the Touw River and the erection of two bollards to prevent illegal parking on pavements that cause damage to the kerb stones. We are however cognisant that these are largely around the **village so if you have any "bright ideas", please let us know and we will see what we can do.**

Cheers

Neville