



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 September 2016



A wedge of Wilderness Egrets off to do battle for the day.

Photo courtesy Deon Jonker

**Pg 2**  
**Coastal**  
**Cleanup**

**Pg 4**  
**Fire**  
**Feedback**

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



**Wilderness residents turned out on SUNDAY 18th (in beautiful sunshine) for the International Coastal Cleanup.**



**Senior Management Managing**



**Managed Middle Management**



**Junior Management Slaving!**

Although the beach looked clean, volunteers cleared some 8 kms of beach of about 25 kgs of plastic fragments.

*“Apart from the occasional toothbrush and condom, we were amazed at the many HUNDREDS of lolly-pop sticks along the beach! Where do they come from? But I was most disappointed by the disgusting amount of dog poo we collected,” reported Chris Burlock, who was cleaning the Kleinkrantz beach.*

*WRRA is working on improving the beach experience for all beach users and would like to warn dog owners that the penalty for not bagging and removing their dog’s faeces on a George municipal beach is R500 and R1000 on a SANParks beach! SAN-Parks has 8 cases before the Magisterial Court at present. George will soon have a Municipal Court which means that all by-law transgressions are going to be heard and fines issued far more quickly than in the past! To avoid an embarrassing and expensive day in court, please remove every one of your dog’s droppings on verges, beaches or the Wilderness Common!*



**The Happily Unmanaged at Kleinkrantz**

On the rainy Saturday, four Glenwood High Gr 11 boys were determined to be part of the worldwide Beach Clean Up as part of their Community Service hours they need for school. They also visited the local SPCA, Emmaus and Kidstop. A day of fun was had by all!



## SAFETY AND SECURITY

### CRIME IS BECOMING A PROBLEM IN WILDERNESS !

Please take every step to be safe and secure!

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 your possessions <https://www.datadot.co.za> . Without proof > No convictions!  
Use technology: Install alarms, perimeter alarms, CCTV cameras.
- Report suspicious people, cars, activities: SAPS needs your eyes, they cannot be everywhere!
  - Pepper sprays make a difference: Keep one handy at each outside door entrance.

Become part of the Community: Know your neighbours and 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.

**NB. 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
On <a href="#">Southside/10th</a>	Join Lagoon Watch	SMS Sigi	083 626 3475

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.

# Wilderness Wake up Call!

A Fire Feedback meeting was held at the Wilderness Hotel on 14th September where Municipal, Fire and SANPARKS officials gave feedback on the disastrous events that unfolded on 11th August. The meeting was attended by about 60 residents. It was a pity that the officials were not afforded the opportunity of being able to fully answer the questions sent to them prior to the meeting. Instead the meeting was somewhat derailed by some residents who passionately wanted to argue their case and the meeting went off at a tangent. Consequently, some of the questions sent in were not covered.

We are all passionate about Wilderness and clearly all of us, residents and officials alike, never want a repeat of this disaster. So it is a pity that the plan of action that officials are constructing was not fully conveyed to the audience, instead some harsh criticism was leveled at authorities and little blame was laid at the door of Wilderness residents themselves.

Municipal Official, Radie Loubser, mentioned that Wilderness is well known for having some really passionate and vocal residents which often means that the Municipal officials are stuck between residents acrimonious and absolute opposing points of view and have to play a mediating role. Often those residents are ill informed and unaware of applicable laws and procedures, but have strong views nevertheless.

The harsh reality is that if we chose to live in Wilderness, our homes are probably surrounded by bush and susceptible to natural disasters such as fire, and that means we need to take our own precautions to protect our properties. All the blame does not lie with the authorities.

Drive around Wilderness and look for yourself. Rooikrantz trees dominating overgrown vacant stands, garden refuse dumped on properties and adjoining stands. Look into the bush between 3rd Ave and the N2. Years of dried up garden refuse piled up and just waiting to be a fire accelerant. Take a drive into Wilderness East. Many residents are dumping their garden refuse on municipal land and in some instances in the Reserve! One has only to take a walk around this once fairly pristine area to see the evidence lying in the bush opposite many of the properties in our suburb – and it seems to be becoming more and more commonplace throughout our Wilderness.

Clearly, we all need to be part of the solution - residents AND the authorities. Perhaps a more balanced **approach would be for the relevant official “plans of action” to be published and residents then make their fully warranted passionate arguments and suggestions in writing.** Everyone has had a wake up!

## The Vlei reborn : 40 Days later

## Embrace our Environment



# SPRING SALE

## Don't miss the Garden Route Botanical Garden Spring Indigenous Plant Sale

7 & 8 October 2016 <http://www.botanicalgarden.org.za>

### WRRRA PUTS UP EXPERIMENTAL DOGGIE POO BAG HOLDERS

**BY LAW**  
you must  
bag and bin  
your dog's  
droppings or  
risk a

**FINE of  
R500**

Please keep our  
Village beautiful



Send a photo of those  
who do not pick up their  
dog's poo to WRRRA:  
[wrrra@tiscali.co.za](mailto:wrrra@tiscali.co.za)

When not answering emails, your Chairman has been busy making 2 tubes which are now fixed to the top-most rubbish bins on the Village Common.

The idea is that dog owners who have forgotten a poo bag can now take one from the tube AND PUT A NEW ONE BACK ON THEIR NEXT WALK.

Here's hoping the tubes work and stay stocked with bags.

IF THEY WORK,

MORE TUBES WILL BE PUT UP to help ensure a cleaner village and beach.



### Reducing our FIRE RISK!

If you know of an erf that through an infestation of Rooikrantz trees or dumped branches, please report that erf number to [tammy@george.org.za](mailto:tammy@george.org.za). The municipality will send out an inspector and if deemed a fire risk, the owners will be sent a letter demanding it be cleared. If it is not cleared in the time stipulated, the Municipality will send a clearing team and add the cost to the owners next rates account!



Do you know that Rooikrantz seeds can lie dormant for up to 20 years and then sprout!



As the world warms, we can expect more wildfires

Wildfire seasons (seasons with higher wildfire potential) are projected to lengthen. Additionally, wildfires themselves are likely to be more severe.

Researchers and modelers project that moist, forested areas are the most likely to face greater threats from wildfires as conditions grow drier and hotter.

Surprisingly, some dry grassland areas may be less at risk, but not because they would be flourishing—the intense aridity is likely to prevent these grasses from growing at all, leaving these areas so barren that they are likely to lack even the fodder for wildfire.

(from The Union of Concerned Scientists)

# How ECO-FRIENDLY are we? Can we do better?

WRRRA would like to encourage more homes to become more ECO-AWARE. In this issue we'd like to highlight two simple steps towards being kinder to our planet.



## COMPOSTING!

Not only is dumping garden waste 'over the fence' or on a vacant erf illegal and punishable by a fine, it is also a FIRE HAZARD.

Did you know that 40 - 60% of your household waste can be composted?! Much of the kitchen waste we discard every day could be used to make fantastic free fertilizer for our gardens instead of creating land-fill problems!!

### Here's how:

1. Pick a shady spot in your garden
2. Get a bin or build a fence for the pile
3. Get a compost activator (a high nitrogen product) to get the compost started. Buy one from your hardware store or try a spade full of good soil or sprinkling of a Lucerne product like rabbit food or horse feed.
4. Tip your garden waste and kitchen scraps onto the pile and mix it up regularly. In about 8 weeks dig the compost from the bottom of the pile. It should be dark and crumbly and ready to use.

### What CAN be composted?

- greens such as fruit and vegetable scraps, peels and rinds, nut shells
- coffee grounds and tea bags
- crushed up eggs shells
- stalks, stems and leaves
- lawn clippings and straw
- paper, cardboard and egg cartons
- wool or cotton rags



### What CAN'T be composted?

- cooked food, fish, meat and bones
- dairy products
- invasive plants
- cat or dog waste
- Charcoal or woody plant matter (it takes too long to decompose)

## WHO IS NOT RECYCLING?

Just look around on a Tuesday morning and its obvious that not everyone is recycling!

WRRRA is asking that every Wilderness home becomes a 'blue bagger' because recycling -



- reduces landfill problems!
- conserves energy and water resources!
- supports much needed job creation!

## DON'T HAVE A BLUE BAG?

WRRRA has organised that starter bags be available at the Wilderness Tourism Bureau. Thereafter, every bag you put out will be replaced on collection day.)

## WHAT SHOULD BE RECYCLED?

### CLEAN & DRY



GLASS

PLASTIC  
BOTTLES

CANS/METAL

PAPER/CARDBOARD



NB> NO nappies, light bulbs or batteries!

### BAG NOT FULL?

Put it out next week when it is!

# Hoekwil



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 1st October. 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



## Wilderness Improvement Program and Services Updates



Having a vacant residential stand has just become a little more costly... but still less costly than Knysna!

Rates increases on Vacant Stands: Vacant stand landowners will by now have received their rates accounts and will have noticed that there has been a substantial increase (+ 40%) in rates on their undeveloped stands. On enquiry at the Municipal offices, Constantia Kloof resident Mike von der Heyde was advised that with effect from 1st August, ALL vacant stands in the George Municipal area will be charged at business property rates.

On enquiry, the WRRRA has been advised that Municipalities throughout SA have begun changing higher rates on vacant residential stands and have begun shifting the holding costs of properties back to the investor. There are no free lunches. Someone has to pay to keep the services maintained and running and especially in areas that are only partially developed, the costs are there whether the land is occupied or not.



The municipality has been advised about the damage to the poles on the common by a vehicle in late August. A request has been made by the WRRRA to have the damaged poles replaced and that the rest of the fence be inspected and repaired.

## Embrace Technology



## Council News    Ward 4 Councillor : Marlene Viljoen

With the election posters barely removed from the poles, Wilderness was hit by a huge tragedy and this was the first crisis that I had to face as newly elected ward councillor. As Manny so aptly put it, Wilderness had its own 8/11 as opposed to 9/11. Now, more than a month later, Mother Nature is taking her course and the vegetation is slowly starting to rejuvenate itself. I am sure that all will agree that this is a most welcome sight after the widespread devastation. Many lessons were learnt but most importantly, the community rallied together. Thanks to each and every single person, business or organisation who assisted during and after the fire.



**From the Municipality's side, it needs to be mentioned that shortly ward committees will be put into place for the next five years.** These committees allow residents the opportunity to share in the governing of their wards by assisting with the determination of needs and priorities. They also assist the ward councillor by passing on vital information and the sharing of ideas. Adverts will appear in the local media within due course.

Secondly, meetings regarding the latest Integrated Development Plan (IDP) will take place within the next few months and residents are encouraged to attend. These meetings allow residents to discuss priorities and projects that they would like to see implemented in the ward. Projects can only be considered and placed on a budget if they are part of the IDP. Invitations to attend the IDP meetings will be sent out and adverts will be placed in the local media.

All relevant role players are busy planning for the holiday season and the first pre-season meeting is taking place this week. Authorities will endeavour to ensure that the holidays are incident free and enjoyable for both locals and visitors.

Finally, well done to Allewijn Dippenaar and his team for arranging the Thousand Sensations Craft Beer and Food Festival. Initiatives of this nature are supported.

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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)



## Leave them be!

Alert Wilderness East residents overlooking Island Lake have alerted SANParks to boats that have been chasing and disturbing water birds on the lake by either speeding into flocks of coots on the water or getting far too close to the egrets when they settle in the burnt reed beds. SANParks are looking into the matter and will report back.



## Need a gardener, a plumber, a housekeeper?

Well help is on your doorstep!



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

The WRRRA & HRRRA are compiling a rapidly growing list of locally available skilled artisans and workers, so that our Wilderness and Hoekwil residents have an opportunity to earn a living.

**By supporting skilled locals... we will also help reduce unemployment-induced petty crime!**

The WRRRA has not checked any references and is simply offering this service as an employment initiative to the Wilderness community. **PLEASE DO YOUR OWN REFERENCE CHECKS**.

Please give WRRRA feedback if warranted.

This project is a "Work-in-Progress" and will be updated frequently. For now, the current list only has Wilderness Heights (WH) workers, and will be updated shortly to include workers from : Kleinkrantz (KK) and Hoekwil /Touwsrante (HV) .

Go to the WRRRA website at [www.wrra.co.za](http://www.wrra.co.za) , Please go to our Support Our Skills tab on the website (top right on the toolbar). Then click on the **SOS** logo that appears on the website to see what skilled folk we have here in our own Wilderness community that are seeking work.



## 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

Calling all B&Bs, Guesthouses, etc.

THE WILDERNESS LAKES AREA  
A MY VILLAGE / MY VALLEY DMC INITIATIVE

**SAVE THE DATE!**

You are cordially invited to the LAUNCH of our area's first My Village / My Valley Destination Marketing Company proudly showcasing:

THE WILDERNESS LAKES AREA



Date: 30 September 2016  
Time: 11:00 - 13:00  
Venue: The Wilderness Hotel  
RSVP: by 23 September to  
info@myvillagemyvalley.co.za

For more information, please contact us:  
info@myvillagemyvalley.co.za  
082 339 3343

26 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: [sigi-wilcox@mweb.co.za](mailto:sigi-wilcox@mweb.co.za)

Doing a **Spring** Clean Out?

Please donate any usable goods you no longer need to the SPCA Charity Shops!

Help animals in need and folks less fortunate than ourselves!  
Contact Sigi for details: [sigiwilcox@mweb.co.za](mailto: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

## The Last Word



It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of one of the Association's past committee members, Pearce Johnston, on 10 September. Pearce was an enormous contributor to the maintenance and supply of the electrical systems in Wilderness over many years. To Maureen we extend our deepest sympathy.

We are often asked as to what makes anyone of us give freely of our time in the interest of Wilderness and its residents? Are we mad? Well maybe there is some truth in that! We do enjoy seeing the right things happening in and around Wilderness and this is, after all, where we have chosen to live. So the cynics might say that we are looking after our own interests. So be it, But we are also **determined to see that even if we can't achieve everything that we want to for Wilderness, at least we can endeavor to see that no harm is done.**

Having just seen the Olympic flame being extinguished for another four years, we can all look forward to the next Olympics with world class athletes performing at their absolute prime. Looking around our committee – **none of us are "world class athletes" and one could also possibly argue that we are not in our "prime".** But hey, we all have loads of experience so, for Wilderness, maybe this is okay? When I watched the unfolding of the Paralympics, one cannot but admire the courage and dedication of these athletes who, for whatever reason, find themselves less fortunate than their able-bodied counterparts. But, like them, they have the sheer guts that makes each and every one of them winners in their own right. The motivation that these athletes display is simply breathtaking.

**So why is it that we who have "so much", seemingly care "so little" about our Wilderness?**

WOW! What a statement! **But its been a tough month! One of your committees' greatest irritations, frustrations and indeed sadness, is to see how many of our residents have attitudes and behave in a manner that should not be acceptable in any "normal" society. We've seen (sadly) how the dumping of garden refuse on vacant or municipal plots aggravated the recent fire, and how some residents continue to put out their refuse days before it is due to be collected.** These are probably both linked to the lack of supervision of gardeners or the view that the owner is **not going to be bothered to "do the right thing".** There are numerous examples of dog poo not being picked up; dogs being left to roam the streets; vehicles speeding past other peoples houses (never our own) and the favourite is just ignoring fines. Unfortunately, it seems the prevailing attitude is -**"it's okay because we probably won't get caught!"** **But how do your neighbours feel?** Are we to put up with you trashing our streets or should we react and engage you to adhere to the municipal by-laws that are applicable to everyone?

**Wouldn't it be "nice" if everyone in Wilderness lived by and obeyed all our laws, not only for ourselves, but also for our neighbours and indeed Wilderness?**

Cheers

Neville