

WRRRA NEWS

OCTOBER 2017

Of special interest for those who live in and love Wilderness

This photo was submitted for the Wilderness calendar in 2015... thank you to the photographer. If *you* have a photo that you'd like to see on our cover, please e-mail it to izulu@mweb.co.za.

WRRRA's aim is to benefit *every* Wildernarian... and many appreciate its achievements:

- the Village Monitor programme that keeps the village clean on an every day basis, keeps an eye on our vehicles until 10pm at night and reduces the menace of disorderly, self-appointed car guards...
- the new EPWP team that is now cleaning street by street from Wilderness Heights down to the sea and even removed 30 bags of litter from the N2 until stopped!
 - The maintenance of village gardens... security initiatives... fascinating talks... community care initiatives... dogs on beaches zones... municipal service improvements... liaison with road contractors, SANRAL, SANParks, etc. etc. etc.

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER, SHOULDN'T YOU BE?



Wilderness Ratepayers and Residents Association,
PO Box 10, Wilderness, Western Cape, South Africa, 6560
wrra@tiscali.co.za 082 895 6317 www.wrra.co.za

Let's NEVER be caught off guard again!

WILDERNESS DFMU—CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The fires in Wilderness and Knysna have begged the question-

WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE BETTER? One obvious answer is - PREPARATION!

WRRRA and SCFPA are looking at forming a DISASTER & FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT for Wilderness and Wilderness Heights that will actively work on minimising the risk of fire in Wilderness and Wilderness Heights. But should a fire occur, a pre-prepared body of volunteers will be needed to take on tasks in the following areas - tasks that many of us could do:

- DFMU Co-ordinator: the link to the Fire Department and Disaster Management in George. Also responsible for gathering the necessary local information, among which water supply areas, fire hydrants, homes of those likely to require assistance in an emergency, absentee land owners, etc.
- Joint Operations Control Manager: who will identify suitable premises for a control centre, open it in the event of a disaster, set out tables, maps, charts etc, and co-ordinate operations and logistics over the duration of the emergency.
- Logistics: make note of all water, cooldrinks and food donations and distribute same in conjunction with Fire Department and Disaster Management.
- Bakkie Owners: to assist in evacuation of people and their possessions, including pets.

- WhatsApp Group Representative: the only source of reliable information regarding fire and disaster is to come from this person for distribution.
- Traffic Controlers: to control traffic of private people in and around the disaster so as not to hinder the movement of fire department or other official vehicles.
- Back-up Disaster/Fire Control Units: people with Bakkie sakkies who can help the fire and disaster departments.
- Liaison People: to travel with fire department or disaster management to assist in road and traffic control, fire hydrant positions and general identification of different areas, and aid fire department as needed, such as to reel in their hoses.

Can you help? Will you help?

As soon as a sufficient number of people volunteer, a meeting will be set up to take the plan forward.

If you are willing to volunteer, please send your names, e-mail addresses, and tel/cell numbers to jeccles@vodamail.co.za, or by SMS to 082 456 1334.

Thank you!

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



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In June 2017 the Garden Route was officially awarded UNESCO Biosphere status, opening the region up for ecological, social and economic support, at an extremely opportune time. The region extends along the coastal strip between Heidelberg and the Eastern Cape border at Storms River Mouth, and incorporates all of the towns and resorts along the N2 highway and coast. Biosphere Reserve status recognises the importance of man and nature living in parallel, symbiotically living in harmony and prospering.

THE MISSION of the Garden Route Biosphere Reserve (GRBR) is:

"To conserve and restore the unique biodiversity and sense of place in the Garden Route, while supporting the sustainable management of the region and the delivery of benefits to local communities. Through the initiative, partner organisations – including government departments, conservation agencies, non-governmental organisations and community groups – can co-ordinate and align their activities around a common set of objectives."

FOCUS AREAS of interest are:

Biodiversity – also described as the "web of life" – recognises that every species, no matter how insignificant it may seem, plays a critical role in the finely-tuned balance of life and needs to be preserved and cherished.

Climate Change and Energy – South Africa is facing enormous challenges in balancing the urgent need for economic growth and mass provision of energy with the growing global pressure around environmental sustainability and the impact of climate change. The urgent development of renewal energy such as hydropower, wind or solar, should become a priority here as well, and should supersede own interest of State Owned Enterprises.

Resource Management – the management of the GRBR will also address Water, Resources, Pollution and waste management, especially in view of the dwindling water resource crisis.

Waste and Air Quality – By the establishment of the GRBR, responsibility should be moved to every individual to manage their own waste and pollutants to reduce the negative impact on the environment and society as a whole.

Rivers and Wetlands – The preservation of wetlands as part of the GRBR is vital to the balance of rivers and crucial for the diversity of animal and plant species. The Garden Route area attracts hundreds of bird species to its wetlands. It also assists in the absorption of water from the surrounding areas which prevents flooding.

Environmental Education is crucial in addressing the focus areas of the GRBR. By teaching others to respect our natural heritage and resources, people and societies are equipped with the skills, knowledge and perspectives to live in an ever-changing world, and more importantly to realise the importance of preserving the world we live in by respecting all social, cultural, environmental and economic aspects of life.

The Table Mountain Fund is supporting and funding the GRBR as a small grant facility, thereby supporting the inclusion of new entrants to the conservation sector through funding, mentoring and managing of small grant beneficiaries from their local communities. It will be implemented in 3 stages, of which the Wilderness, George Area will receive its portion of the grant in the third year.

With the UNESCO biosphere status awarded to the Garden Route, the increasing demand from people to enjoy the natural beauty of the area, is acknowledged, but also the challenge to create systems to soften and balance the real impact on the environment.

See the website: <http://www.grbr.org.za> for further information.



SANParks Liaison meeting feedback

Every two months the WRRRA, SRRA and the biggest Wilderness and Sedgefield conservancies meet with SANParks to discuss projects and environmental concerns. Some points raised at the October meeting included:

- The waterfall above Ebb & Flow remains closed - WRRRA is hoping to mediate this matter between the land owner and SANParks in an attempt to have it opened before the peak season.
- There is an issue involving the illegal clearing of undergrowth on the banks of the Touw River (SANParks land) and the planting of a garden in its place. Such planting is NOT allowed!
- SANParks has completed some 85% of its firebreaks and will soon be focusing on alien clearing again.
- **Thanks to WRRRA's help, SANParks will be erecting an automated weather station in the Touw River catchment area.** This will allow everyone to see real-time rainfall updates on the i-weather website and know that SANParks will be aware of when to breach the river mouth to avert the risk of flooding.

WELCOME to all our new members, and THANK YOU to the existing members who have renewed their membership!

Please keep encouraging your friends and neighbours to join the WRRRA – the more representation we have as an Association, the better our ability to influence the various authorities to prioritise our needs for maintaining this wonderful piece of paradise.

The fee for 2018 fee is only R160! Application forms are on the WRRRA website, wrra.co.za. Your contact details are vital for us to be able to communicate with you.

Please remember to reference your surname and erf number when making your payment – we want to acknowledge your contribution.

We currently have 26 paid up members who remain anonymous !

If you know of someone who has joined this year and has not received a letter of thanks, please ask them to contact me, Dee, on deirdre.marcus@gmail.com.

Your WRRRA Committee for 2017

We also have 'regional' representatives:

Klienkrantz: Liz Gibson 072 118 4328

Rondevei: Robin Emslie 083 255 8477

Hoekwil: Terry Lamont Smith 082 446 5981

TO CONTACT US

Simply email Jackie at wrra@tiscali.co.za and she will forward your query to the relevant portfolio holder. If you have to phone, **please avoid weekends or 'after hour' calls.**

Chairman	Donald Goldfain	083 251 8401
Gardens/signage	Cornell Barnardt	084 666 6300
Treasurer/Vice chair	Neville Ewing	084 300 2610
Membership	Deirdre Marcus	082 602 3045
Environmental	Monica du Toit	082 788 0420
Development Diligence	John Miller	084 959 4243
Services liaison	Jeremy Eccles	082 456 1334
Tourism/businesses		
SAPS liaison	Ian Willis	072 993 2053
Roads	Doug Wilcox	083 607 3502
Communications	Chris Burlock	082 464 7761
Secretary	Jackie Berry	079 969 2443

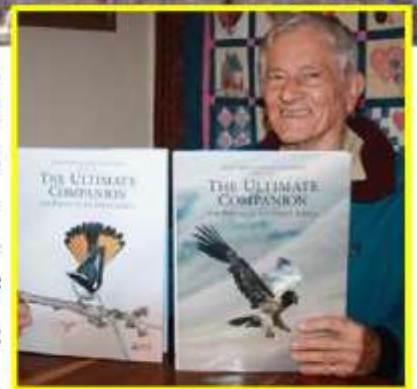
Enjoying the WRRRA talks?

Well here's a treat... Peter Ginn is going to take us into the lives of some favourite Wilderness birds.

Backed with intriguing photographs — such as this Fish eagle, head thrown back in full-cry— this talk is not to be missed.



Don't miss this talk by PETER GINN, best-selling bird book author and birding safari leader. Peter's photography has earned him election as an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain and the Photographic Society of Southern Africa.



Organised by the WRRRA (To become a member, go to www.wrra.co.za)

TUES 24 OCT—6.00 for 6.30pm

Wilderness Hotel & Spa

WRRRA Members R 10—Non-members R20

Cash bar available



Baboons on your doorstep?

The George Herald of 28th September featured an excellent article entitled "Roaming baboons an uneasy reality" which gave sage advise on reducing the risk of baboon raids: **DO NOT GIVE THEM ACCESS TO FOOD.** Yes, that means your windows, fruit trees, vegie garden and compost heap might have to be baboon-proofed, but **that's the reality of living on the urban edge where we share habitat with wildlife.** If the troop cannot access food, it will move on.

SAFETY & SECURITY *Ian Willis*

Miss the Police Forum meeting on 26th Sept?
W/O Boshoff opened with some facts on:

1. Making a CIVIL ARREST.

- Anyone may make a civil arrest should they reasonably believe the person has committed a crime or is fleeing or resisting arrest.
- You may only use the minimum force necessary to effect the arrest.
- After making the arrest, call the police straight away.
- If you are not confident to make an arrest, rather than risk injury, call a neighbour to help, or take a photo of the suspect which will help the police to make an arrest.

2. FIREARM USE

- Gun owners must follow the laws governing fire arms.
- Should you use a firearm, you will have a case opened against you!

- Should you be forced to use your firearm, (because lives are in danger) you must enlist legal counsel to assist you make your statement as it essential the correct terminology is used!

3. CRIME STATS

W/O Bosoff was unhappy with the number of break-ins during the month. He warned everyone to keep alarms on and doors and windows secured (and to alarm your Wendy house as these are also being targeted). **He also warned against leaving 'scrap metal'** (like old roof sheets or wheelbarrow) lying around as **this encourages collectors to enter your yard... and possibly they could then try to enter the house.**

Putting your rubbish bags out before the collection day also encourages vagrants into the area.

He again asked that employers have a full record of **their domestic workers... a copy of their ID book or passport, etc.**

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE 5.30pm
MONDAY 30th OCTOBER.

WANT TO BECOME A POLICE RESERVIST WITH THE ADDITIONAL POWERS INVOLVED? CONTACT Warrant Officer BOSHOFF 084 300 1151

PLEASE JOIN
YOUR LOCAL
SECURITY
WHATSAPP
GROUP!



AREA	WHATSAPP	ADMINISTRATOR
CONSTANTIA KLOOF	ConsKloofSecurity	Donald 083 251 8401
DIEPRIVIER	Dieprivier Group	Hein 072 350 2577
HOEKWIL	Hoekwil's Watching	Wayne 084 557 8880
HOEKWIL	Hoekwil Security	Johann 082 857 9953
KINGFISHER CLOSE	KingfisherWatch	Peter 060 985 9113
KLEINKRANTZ	Kleinkrantz Neighbourhood Watch	Liz 072 118 4328
SANDS ROAD	Sands Road Security	Lucy 076 903 0257
SOUTHSIDE/10TH	Lagoon Watch	Sigi 083 626 3475
WHITES ROAD	Whites Road	Isobel 082 553 3288
WILDERNESS EAST	'WECAN' Security	Estelle 083 292 1190
WILDERNESS HEIGHTS	Heights Watch	Roy 082 060 7474

The current population of Wilderness (the village, Wilderness Lakes Area, and Hoekwil) is 11,015. That is the number of those residing here at the time of the 2011 census, updated to the present using an estimated growth rate. It does not include day and over-night visitors.

That’s food for thought, to be sure, and must be taken with a grain of salt, if you will.

Here’s the story: The George Municipality population at the census in 2011 was 193,672. Stats SA estimates that the population grew 7.5% over the five years from 2011 to 2016 for a total 2016 population of 208,237. Then, in the one year from 2016 to 2017, Stats SA estimates the growth rate at 1.45%, which would make the current population 211,279.

<i>George Municipality Population</i>			
	<i>2011</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Total	193,672	208,237	211,279
<i>2011-2016</i>		<i>2016-2017</i>	
<i>five year growth rate</i>	<i>one year growth rate</i>		
7.5%	1.45%		

Meanwhile, the 2011 population figures below for Wilderness and Wilderness Lakes Area are accurate from Stats SA, but whether the Hoekwil population is included in the Wilderness population is not clear. **(I’m inclined to believe that the Hoekwil population is a separate number, and thus the population of our village areas was probably about 10,100 in 2011.)**

<i>Population, 2011</i>	
<i>Wilderness</i>	6,164
<i>Wilderness Lakes Area</i>	149
<i>Hoekwil</i>	<u>3,787</u>
Total	10,100

Stats SA cautions that it would be risky to apply the growth rates for the whole of George to our village areas as they are such small parts of the whole of **George. But let’s pretend for a minute that our village areas *have* grown at the same rate as the whole of George since 2011.** That would make the current population of Wilderness, Wilderness Lakes Area, and Hoekwil 11,015.

Whether the numbers are accurate or not may not be clear, but they are close enough to note the implication – we are growing.

Wilderness Municipal Valuation UPDATE.

WRRRA representatives met with the contracted valuers Johan Bosman and Andre Willemse to clear up some details that had concerned members:

- Valuations are based on historical records and recent sales achieved in each area. They will be on foot and wear identity cards. Photographs of each house are taken by Cape Data Valuations data collectors. Photos of the data collection team have been published in the George Herald, but if you want confirmation that the photographers work for CDV, please phone André on 076 085 3235 or Johan on 083 741 8895.
- Street photographs are merged with live satellite photographs and historical records on a highly sophisticated software programme so extensions, new pools, etc. are identified and factored into the valuation.
- We can expect letters with our updated valuations sometime during December.
- Should a property owner see fit to object to the valuation, they have 30 days and three ways to object:
 - Complete an official form available from the Wilderness Objection Centre (location still to be finalised).
 - Call or email André Willemse on 0760853235 - andre@cdvproprtyvaluators.co.za and ask for a inspection.
 - Call Anita Scheepers of the George Municipality on 044 801 9019.

N2 Upgrade

The recently released Final Basic Assessment Report for the N2 upgrades reveals only one major change from the earlier Draft Report. The roundabout previously planned for 10th Ave/Roland Krynauw will now be located at the Pirates Creek junction. The junction of Roland Krynauw with the N2 will be closed so that a service road can be constructed from there to Pirates Creek.

It is expected that the work will start in the 2nd quarter 2018 and will last between 3 1/2 and 4 years. Sections of about 3kms will be worked on. It will be the decision of the contractor as to the sequence. It is anticipated that no stop-goes will be implemented but this cannot be guaranteed.



Comments to reach the Environmental Partnership by 23 October 2017. (See the wrra.co.za web site for details.)

Hoekwil road project

Tenders have closed and an announcement should be made shortly as to the winner contractor. Only at that time will we have full access to the details of the work to be performed. Please note that **this road is not classified as an 'upgrade' but a 'road refurbishment'**. Hence there will probably be limited upgrades.



SERVICES

Jeremy Eccles

DISASTER & FIRE MANAGEMENT:

Since over-head power lines can generate the spark that sets off fires, "Services" has driven the establishment of a Disaster and Fire Management Unit (DFMU) in Wilderness, with a satellite in Wilderness Heights which will spearhead operations due to current interest from property owners there.

[See the call for volunteers to join this DFMU page 2.](#)

ELECTRICITY – DISTRIBUTION:

We are relieved that two key personnel in this Department have had their limited-duration contracts renewed. This will result in "business-as-usual" with regard to power outages.

Appointment of a separate team to cut back trees and overgrown vegetation under power-lines as preventative maintenance is in the hands of the Municipal H.R. Dept., and adverts were placed 2 weeks ago. We trust that this team will be operational by month-end. (N.B. This team was not in this year's budget, and was only reinstated through lobbying of the Mayor & Municipal Manager by our Chairman, as reported in earlier newsletters.)

ELECTRICITY – STREET LIGHTS:

Two residents reported street lights having been out of order for a month despite recording the faults by telephone a number of times. An e-mail to the Dep. Director resulted in all the lights, bar one, being repaired within 2 days. If members are aware of street lights not working, please log the fault on 044 801 9243, obtain a reference number, and if they are not repaired within 5 days, let me know by e-mail (quoting the reference number) on jeccles@vodamail.co.za.

TELKOM – OVERHEAD LINES:

Reporting of faults on overhead lines through Telkom's call centre is useless. A local number has generated slow action, and lines along Whites Road are now clear, but the fallen trees remain.

IF WE DO NOT RESOLVE THE EVER INCREASING FUEL LOAD —BEWARE THE NEXT FIRE!

Wilderness Improvement Programme

Over and above the public garden spaces in Wilderness, WRRRA's Cornell Barnardt has been allocating the EPWP team to various streets outside the Village centre - cleaning and neatening verges and reporting illegal dumping.



So far they have worked on Lake Road, Limberlost Lane, 1st, 6th, 7th and 8th Avenues, Marine Drive, North Street and Serpentine Road!

If you see the pretty yellow-flowered bushes being removed from the stream next to Milkwood Village - we have been advised that they are Wild Tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) a poisonous invasive plant that has to GO! .



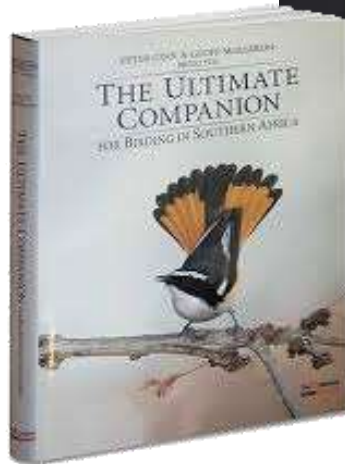
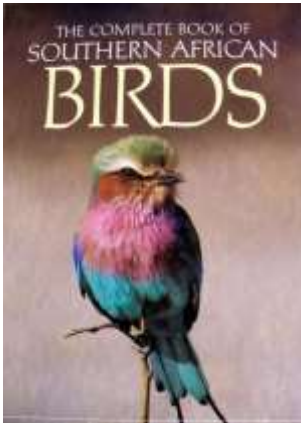
Dates to Diarise:

You probably have his **books... now come and hear**

PETER GINN in person!

TUES 24th OCT 6.00 for 6.30

Wilderness Hotel.



WEDNESDAY 1 NOV
Milkwood Village

FAIR & WILD ART FAIR: 1st WEDNESDAY of every month. 9.00—16.00 Live music—Awesome Art!

SATURDAY 4 NOV
Hoekwil

HOEKWIL COUNTRY FAIR 9 till 1pm on the **1st Saturday** of every month at the **Hoekwil Primary**.
Contact Mariëtte Künkel on 082 472 0922 or 044 850 1058 or mmk692@gmail.com

SATURDAY 25 NOV
Wilderness Common

The Wilderness Woof-athon is masses of fun for dogs and owners and non-dog owners too! **Carnival games—bacon rolls—coffee and cakes—arts and crafts stalls— 'sausage and spoon' race— and don't miss the SPCA 'NO PRICE' BOOK SALE!**

CALLING ARTISTS and STALL HOLDERS

Contact Sigi to book your stall at the Wilderness WOOF-athon... sigiwilcox@mweb.co.za. Just a R50 donation to the SPCA!

Wilderness WOOF-athon!
and summer **FUNFEST**
SAT 25 NOV
Wilderness Village Green
8.00 am – 12.00 pm
All dogs to be on leash!

- 8.00 Registration** - dogs R25, adults R15, children 12 or under R5
- 9.00 Mass doggie BEACH walk**
- 10.00 Enter our Fun dog shows**
- FUN GAMES WITH DOGS STALLS**
- BARGAINS ARTS CRAFTS**
- YUMMY TREATS & DRINKS**

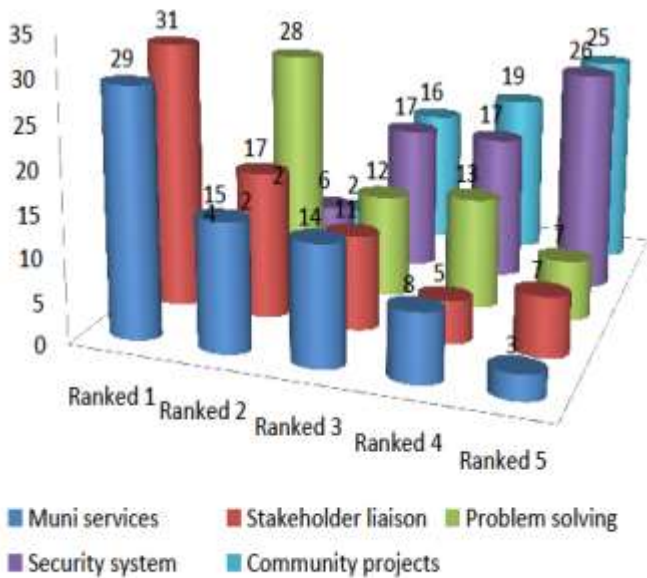
Please come and support the **GARDEN ROUTE SPCA**

Our Wilderness Vision...

Your answers to our "BRAIN PICKING" questionnaire helped create the Vision for Wilderness...



Wilderness is a secure and caring community, passionate about the exceptional natural beauty that surrounds us and the gentle village lifestyle we embrace.



and your responses also helped the WRRRA committee define its new Mission statement.

Firstly, you want the WRRRA to liaise with stakeholders such as the local and district municipality, SANParks, SANRAL, etc.

Equally importantly, you want the WRRRA to focus on achieving the best possible services from the Municipality.

You ranked the WRRRA's pro-activity highly and obviously want programmes like the Village Monitors and village cleanliness to continue.

Security and Community Projects were important, but not as important as the first 3 roles.

After some debate, the WRRRA Committee decided on the following Mission Statement to guide its actions today and into the future:

The WRRA's mission is to help enhance the quality of life for our members and the community as a whole by striving to achieve the best possible service from the Municipality and other stakeholders while promoting responsible custodianship of the ethos and natural beauty that is Wilderness.



From our Ward 4 Councillor—Marlene Barnardt

At the September WRRRA meeting, the Rondevlei representatives highlighted **the need for water catchment tanks for the residents of the 'railway cottages'**. This is now in process and all six houses will receive new tanks from the indigent budget.

ARE YOU 'LEGAL'?

The George Municipality has extended the current amnesty period for general building plans for a further period of 6 months to 31 December 2017.

This allows landowners to legalise all existing illegal construction works on their property without paying the appropriate higher building plan fees and to update building plans records.

Nico Koen, the George Local Municipality Manager: Building Control, says his department is overwhelmed with inquiries regarding the status of landowners' building plans in the council's possession. Existing illegal structures that qualify for amnesty are submitted daily.

Koen says there will be strict action after the amnesty campaign.

Landowners who do not obey the law make themselves guilty of an offense.

Since July 2015 to September 2017, **882** amnesty building plans have been submitted.

Koen says, however, he believes that despite campaigns, media reports, radio broadcasts, advertisements, notifications and much more, many landowners are still failing to legalise illegal structures and/or illegal land uses.

In terms of Section 4 (1) of the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act, No. 103 of 1977 and other applicable legislation, it is the responsibility of the Local Authorities to ensure that no one has a building, either temporary or permanent, and regardless of the materials which is used for its erection, without the prior written approval of the local government concerned.

The Council approved the appointment of a draftsman on a fixed-term contract of 12 months to assist in the preparation of building plans in all residential areas that qualify for Indigent on the municipality's database.

Landowners can visit the building management department if they have any queries about structures or building plans at the George Municipal Main Building, Fourth Floor, York Street or call 044 801 9370.

JUST HOW MUCH MUNICIPAL WATER ARE YOU USING EACH MONTH?

Do you know what your monthly water usage is?

Simply jot down your monthly water meter reading.

Meters generally show kilolitres... so if your reading was 5951 at the end of last month and is 5960 at the end of this month, you have used 9 kilolitres i.e. 9 000 litres.

The latest George dam stats prove that we all need to reduce usage still further. How low can you go???



The Last Word



Be kept up to date with WRRRA news on Facebook page. Find us on Facebook by searching @WRRRAWilderness and simply click LIKE.

Brrrrr..... Oh yes, this is Wilderness. Wait till November before putting away those winter woollies!

The welcome rains have made our beautiful Wilderness sparkle and bloom. Good to see that many residents are following the WRRRA **cleaning and gardening lead and have begun "Spring Cleaning" their gardens** and verges. Take a drive through Wilderness and rekindle the passion for natural beauty that made you settle here in the first place. Our Village is looking amazing.

The WRRRA can only do so much so we are hoping YOU are also a proud Wilderness ambassador. Encourage those errant neighbours to clean up and trim their properties and join the rest of us in making Wilderness the cleanest, prettiest and best place to enjoy living.

Our community needs your involvement. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will read about some key community initiatives that need your support. The Disaster and Fire Management Unit is one such opportunity. Please seriously think about how you can help.

Later in the year, there will be Basic First Aid courses and Basic CPR courses for the community. These are skills that can and will save a life.

The recent fire disaster showed that all our resources were stretched. **Let's become part of the solution, take up the WRRRA Challenge and become involved with our community.**

Brace yourselves, just a few more quiet weeks before the Vaalies descend. So for now, enjoy the peace and quiet.

Donald Goldfain
Chair person

