

Wilderness NewsBite - April 2019

BE FIRE WISE
TURN GAS OFF WHEN NOT IN USE



OUR VILLAGE MONITORS

Credit is due again to our 8 Village Monitors for the work they put into keeping the Village clean and orderly. These Monitors can be identified easily as they wear neat, clean, yellow bibs together with their name tags. The cleaning of the tunnel behind the Caltex service station has been well maintained, with the rest of the village needing constant attention. Litter during the busy periods is a constant challenge – please help by intervening if you see someone littering.

BIN SIGNAGE

There are 14 dirt bins in and around the shopping and restaurant areas of the Village, with each one displaying either posters or advertisements on the sides. In order to maintain a neat and clean feel in the Village, WRRRA is asking that only one, framed advertisement/poster per bin be allowed and should preferably be displayed on the front side.

MOTORISED PARA GLIDERS

The paragliding on Kleinkrantz and Wilderness beaches is being addressed as there have been several complaints regarding irresponsible and reckless flying, notwithstanding the noise. Attempts have been made by SANparks to resolve this issue, but with no success so far. This is due to the fact that the various take-off and landing zones are under the management of different land owners and authorities. Further, there are numerous different flying clubs, regulations and airspace being managed by different authorities. In the meantime, incidents can be reported to the South African Hang-gliding and Paragliding Association (SAHPA) who is the controlling body. **SAHPA Office. Louise Liversedge (+27) 866111005 / office@sahpa.co.za**. Otherwise the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) can be contacted.

MADEIRA VINE (ADREDERA CORDIFOLIA) – INVASIVE SPECIES SOUTH AFRICA

Many thanks to some of our eagle eyed members who have reported sightings of Madeira Vine in and around



L'Azur (at the circle on Waterside Road), as well as at Milkwood Village. WRRRA are working with SANparks to find the most effective way of treating this **highly invasive** plant. Because it spreads so rapidly and easily, the removal of it has to be very carefully handled. Technically, this is the responsibility of the municipality but, we should all participate in the removal of any alien invasion on our own property. More information on Alien Plants is available on our WRRRA website.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

The George Fires of Oct/Nov 2018 are already a distant memory, but please remember that the saying goes that if you live in the beautiful fynbos of the Western Cape it is a case of "when" and not "if" a fire occurs, and we ALL need to be constantly fire ready.

At the recent Knysna Fires Workshop, the Garden Route District & George Municipal authorities acknowledged that they need to start working with local Community organisations to spread the message of fire awareness and help residents and communities to become "resilient". Landowners and residents HAVE to recognise that at minimum, they are responsible for their own safety and should also become aware of those neighbours less able to help themselves. Therefore the six FMUs in the greater Wilderness area have started to inform their members about the climate and population changes that affect the "fire season", the current legislative environment and how to make themselves "fire wise" so that they have action plans in place in the event of a fire.

During the George Fires, the local FMUs played a **significant role** in communicating what was happening on the ground to local residents. Some FMUs also had fire-fighting capacity and equipment and were able to assist the authorities and make a difference, which was greatly appreciated by the professional firefighters at the incidents. The FMUs are now working together to further the recognition and co-operation that was mooted by the various authorities at the workshop.

We urge you to join your local FMU so that you can be fire ready, and also join the Southern Cape Fire Protection Association (SCFPA) for legislative protection (including against presumption of negligence if a fire from your property spreads to your neighbour). They also have a wealth of information on their website <https://www.scfpa.co.za/>.

A WRRRA talk will be arranged in the near future.

COMMUNICATION, WRRRA AWARENESS and MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to all our 2019 members for your generous support, which enables us to keep our beautiful Village clean and inviting. As you know, 2019 saw us introduce electronic invoicing, which has been a great success. Whilst we sent out reminders in March, due to them being in PDF format some folk may not have received them (PDFs sometimes get blocked to prevent possible 'malware' transferral). If you have not yet renewed your membership and cannot find your invoice, please check your JUNK MAIL. Alternatively, you can contact Dee Marcus on deirdre.marcus@gmail.com and she will re-send your invoice. **PS: When paying, please reference your SURNAME and ERF number (not the invoice number).**

It's well known that without an active membership base, WRRRA cannot thrive. Whilst it is our aim to continually grow our membership base, we need your 'persuasion and influence' to send new members to us to join! A suggestion was made that we avail ourselves of the use of students to run a recruitment campaign – what do you think? Have you any other ideas? This will also assist in promoting awareness and will encourage community participation.

WRRRA Communications, a reminder to all members – if you are not receiving WRRRA emails, it is more than likely that your service provider (ISP) has blocked the wrrra@tiscali.co.za email address as they may view our emails as spam. Please go onto the WRRRA website and click on [minutes/newsletters](#) for some suggestions on how to get us 'approved'.

GARDENS

Curbs, sidewalks and flower beds are being maintained and kept tidy by our WRRRA gardener, but due to budget restraints we can only have him 2 days a week, which makes it very difficult for him to get to everything. Pavements could easily be kept neat by the home owner as well. WRRRA is making a plea to all residents - if your pavement is overgrown or untidy, please could you make some time to neaten it up, thereby assisting our loyal and hardworking Gardener.

POLICE FORUM CAMERA ACCESS INITIATIVE

Wilderness is awash with various forms of security cameras and with this in mind, it has been suggested that we embark on a campaign to consolidate the access to, and usage of these cameras. Security is always an agenda, but more often than not, only becomes an issue when something goes wrong!

WRRRA, together with our active Police Forum and concerned individuals are embarking on a project to look at how we can involve our residents and ratepayers in taking our security to the next level.

We will be in contact and will keep you informed!

TRAFFIC

Speeding on Beach Road is a problem, as is parking on George Road – this in part being due to the insufficient parking in the village during busy periods. Leilas Lane – WHAT TO BE DONE?! There are constant complaints of drivers going the wrong way and very often it is us, the residents! Kindly adhere to signs and be diligent drivers.

BABY TURTLES

STRANDED BABY TURTLE? WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?



1. DO NOT return it to the sea—it will die!

It hatched way up the coast and has been drifting on a warm current but when it hit our cold seas becomes hypothermic and too weak to lift its head out of the water. Put back into cold water it will drown!
Strandings peak in May.

2. DRY IT OFF and put on a piece of towel in a dry container such as a 2 or 5 litre ice-cream tub with breathing holes in the lid. Keep at room temperature.

3. TAKE TO SANParks reception at Ebb & Flow or call Chris 082 464 7761 or Frances 082 559 3757 who will ensure your turtle gets to SANParks and on to the Two Oceans Aquarium for rehabilitation and later release!



CHAIRPERSON

As we bid a fond farewell to, and thank our erstwhile Chair, Donald Goldfain and Vice Chair, Neville Ewing for their tireless work, we welcome in the WRRRA new Chair and 2IC! Our congratulations to Shiralee Moore as Chair and Pierre Durant as Vice Chair. They were unanimously elected by the Committee and have their full support.

HAPPY EASTER