



## **WRRRA NEWSBITES MAY 2019**

### **TALKS**

Save the following dates for upcoming WRRRA Talks:

Wednesday 12 June: Enrico Gennari – Shark Conservation on the Southern Cape Coast

Wednesday 10 July: Jonathan Britton from SANParks – Touw River Estuary, Management in an Urban Area

Both events 18:00 for 18:30 at the Wilderness Hotel

### **CONDOLENCES**

We send our condolences to both Mrs Sylvia Sell whose husband Graham, a former WRRRA Chairman, as well as Mrs Lilian Brody whose husband Deon passed away recently.

### **WILDERNESS HISTORY**

Calling all Wilderness history buffs: Hugo Leggatt is updating his records on the old Wilderness Company – Wilderness (1921) Ltd. His understanding is that it is/was the owner of all unsold land in Wilderness. The company was bought by the late Leon Dorfling and John Pfaff and when they went their separate ways, John Pfaff took over ownership. Does anyone know the current status of Wilderness (1921) Ltd, or what eventually happened to it legally and /or financially?

### **PET GIFT**

Tana Hutchings (based in Botswana), operating Wilderness Safaris, recognised the need to assist Wilderness with dog and cat sterilisations. She identified the animals in need, contacted the GR SPCA and donated funds to have 15 dogs and 1 cat sterilised. What a wonderful gesture. Thank you to Tana and to GR SPCA for dedicating a full day in the surgery to make this happen.

### **DUMPING OF GARDEN REFUSE: *Wilderness, are we living in a dump?***

In some areas (Die Duin, Dumbleton Crescent, Freesia Rock and Milkwood Forest), residents have taken to dumping or storing (and we use the term loosely) their garden refuse on neighbouring empty plots or municipal land. Not only does this contribute to the general untidiness of Wilderness but it often leads to environmental degradation by smothering the natural vegetation and encouraging the growth of alien plant species. We encourage the perpetrators to move away from the attitude of “out of (my) sight, out of mind”, and find a way to get the dump sites around their premises cleaned up in line with the Wilderness Improvement Programme. For those households unwilling to compost their garden refuse, the municipal refuse removal will take away bagged and bundled waste. There is a Municipal telephone number to report illegal dumping 044 802 2907.

### **FIRE AWARENESS**

One lesson from the Knysna Fires in June 2017 was that very few people were prepared for what happened and when it did, they did not know what to take with them in evacuating when they had to do so. You should also know, or have in mind, evacuation routes from where you live to a place of safety, as one or more of these may be in the path of a fire and either be closed by the authorities or be dangerous for you to use.

### **WILDERNESS CLEANLINESS**

We're looking into the problem and repair of the one 'broken' rubbish bin at the Spar parking area. We would be grateful for assistance from the community in maintaining the cleanliness around this area.

### **UPGRADING OF DUSTBINS**

The dustbins in the village need attention and we are currently getting quotes for repair work. It was suggested that we change to concrete/granite bins as the wooden ones get treated roughly.

## **BEACH CLEAN-UP**

**SATURDAY 1 JUNE. STARTING AT 08H00 AT KLEINKRANTZ**

**ENDING AT 13H00 AT SWARTVLEI BEACH**

**All Welcome, bring own water bottle and snack  
Landmark Foundation - John Powell – 074 383 7106**

### **UPGRADING GENERAL**

Electricity in South Street and Grants Place – Kleinkrantz.

Pavement Improvements – Kleinkrantz.

Pot holes have been filled in and around the village.

Sewerage line for tanks – costs being investigated.

A small committee has been formed to provide constructive contributions towards planning for erf 329 in Wilderness Heights (another name possibly Heights Village?)

### **ENVIRONMENT**

The Municipality is attending to the Sewerage issue at Ebb and Flow.

Eden District Municipality is going to put speed limits in place for Rondevlei.

SANParks are spending a considerable amount to open the Touw River mouth and on management of the estuary in general.

Removal of Castor Oil trees is an issue as well as is the Borer beetle problem. These are being highlighted.

### **SAFETY**

Tourists climbing up a sand bank near the railway line were attacked on the beach recently. One preventative measure which was discussed was signage that this was a high risk area. Signage was there previously and might have rusted or been removed. This will be checked. Again we have to mention dogs on leashes on our beaches for the safety of all. Kindly adhere to this request please.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

There are still some invoices outstanding but this could possibly be due to emails being stored in junk mail? Please check your inbox and look for emails from [nevilleewing@telkomsa.net](mailto:nevilleewing@telkomsa.net). Reminder – if you are not receiving WRRRA email communications and have a MWEB, iAfrica, Worldonline or coporate address, it is probably due to your service provider (ISP) blocking our emails as possible 'spam'. You

can either contact your ISP to request that they release [wrra@tiscali.co.za](mailto:wrra@tiscali.co.za) emails or access current and/or recent information through the WRRRA website.

We are at present doing a clean-up of our systems and possibly a new system will be put in place in order for us to overcome these challenges. We also aim to have a special membership drive in the near future.