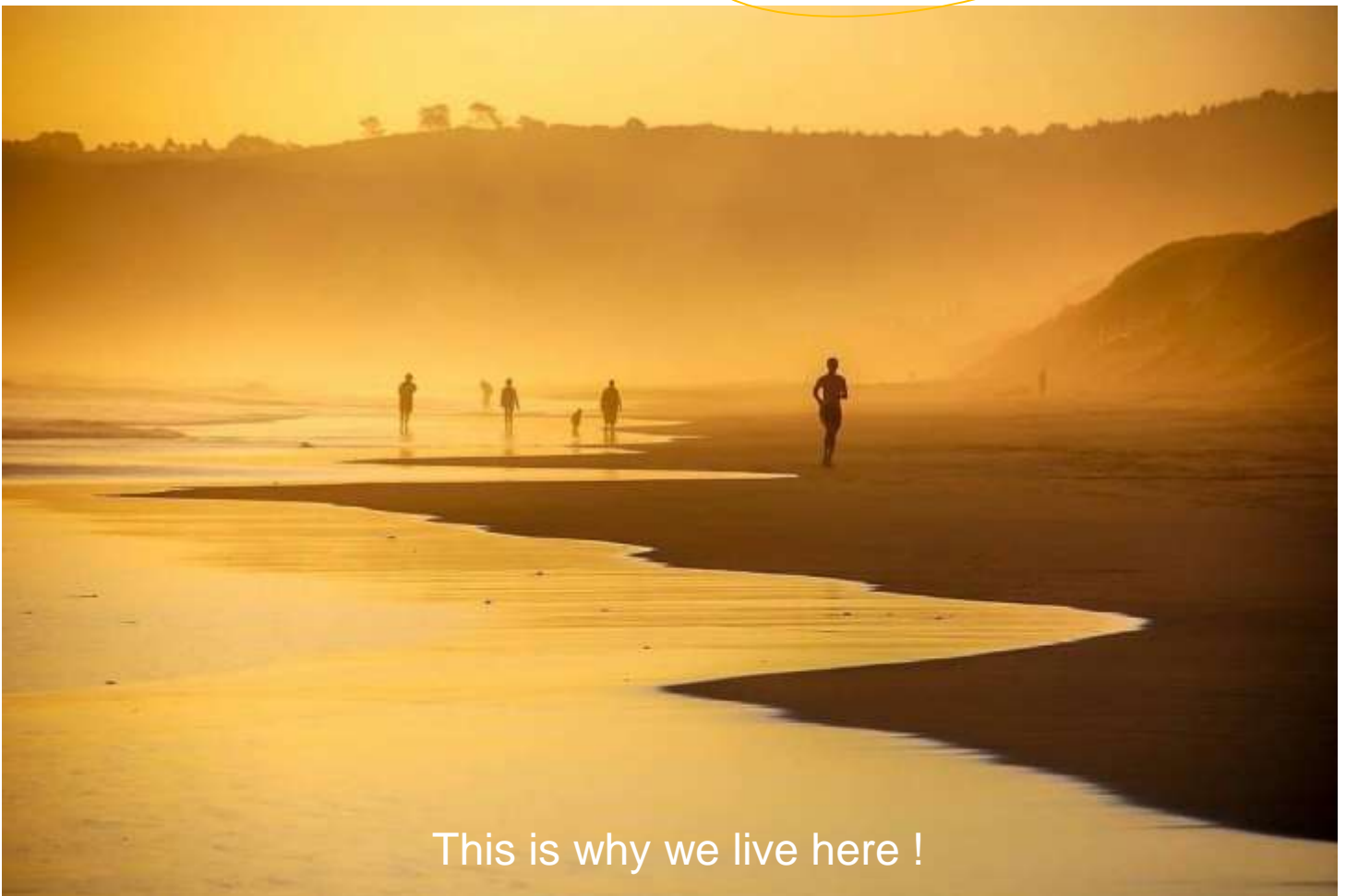




Wilderness Ratepayers and Residents Association, Wilderness, Western Cape, South Africa, 6560  
wrra@tiscali.co.za 082 895 6317 www.wrra.co.za

## WRRRA NEWS December 2016



This is why we live here !

Photo courtesy a great photographer on facebook.

**Pg 2**  
**Join Vanessa's**  
**BEACH CARERS**

**Pg 5**  
**DOGS**  
**in Wilderness**

**Pg11**  
**Welcome Hoekwil**  
**readers**

# Love CLEAN beaches?

Then please join Vanessa Hau-Yoon's **"BEACH CARERS!"**

Visitors to our beaches come to have a *lekker day by the sea*... but unfortunately, to many day-trippers, that does *not* include picking up their cans, bottles, take-away food packets and leaving our beaches litter-free!

Although WESSA is running a Blue Flag Beach Stewards programme, (trainees who will help educate visitors on proper beach manners,) they are exclusive to our Blue Flag beach. This leaves 15 km of beach, from Kleinkranz to Leentjies, that needs some TLC!

So if you are a 'doer' rather than a 'complainer', please grab a free rubbish bag from the Wilderness Info Office and join other volunteers in picking up some litter on your beach walk. Ideal days are Sundays/ Mondays so that rubbish bags do not lie around too long before the Tuesday collection.

The good news is that for the peak season, from around the 16 December, the Municipality is allocating two employees to clean up Leentjies beach and another two at the Blue Flag beach.



## Welcome to the Wilderness Blue Flag Beach Stewards

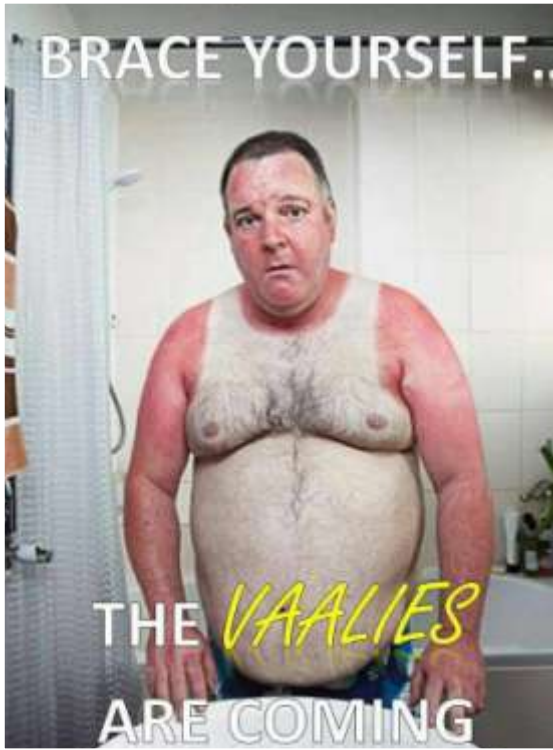
In a great Department of Tourism/WESSA initiative, 189 matric-educated but still-to-be-employed youngsters are undergoing 28 months of (paid) training as TOURISM BLUE FLAG BEACH STEWARDS. Wilderness has been allocated 7 BEACH STEWARDS, all from our local communities.

The Tourism Blue Flag Project aims to improve tourism facilities and services offered at 50 Blue Flag beaches across 3 provinces. BEACH STEWARDS will be deployed on these beaches to provide additional capacity to support tourism initiatives and adherence to Blue Flag criteria.

Participants will be trained and developed for further employment in the "Blue Economy" coastal tourism sector, through the accredited *Environmental Education Training and Development Programme*, an NQF Level 5 National Certificate, and other training in tourism, Lifeguarding and environmental management.

Please note, the stewards are NOT responsible for beach cleaning.





# Yup! Brace yourself!

and Yup, PARKING will be at a premium again!

The reality is that Wilderness has become a popular destination for visitors and traffic and parking chaos will be the order of the day unless authorities make a plan to alleviate the congestion. There are limited options and sanity needs to prevail. Losing your cool will not solve the shortage of parking in the Village.

## Here is the plan:

- The monitors will do their best to help people park responsibly.
- The Municipality is going to put up a few more signs to guide visitors to the SANParks parking area and the Common.
- The top of the Common has been marked off with 120 parking spaces and a temporary, sign-posted entry point will be opened up from Waterside Road. This parking area will be in use from mid December to early January. (NB. This was a Municipal decision.) Using the Common is not an ideal solution, but it will

help. The Municipality has given an undertaking to rehabilitate areas of damaged grass on the Common in January. WRRRA has asked for a meeting to discuss a long term solution in the new year.

- WRRRA monitors will be issuing fun warning "Tickets" for bad parking >>>
- Traffic enforcement has said that they will be patrolling the Village.



## Where there's smoke there's...

Councillor Marlene Viljoen advised that the worrying off/on power interruptions that affected the whole of George and Wilderness area during the week starting 5 December, were related to the fires surrounding George during that week.

Our thanks and thoughts go out to the fire-fighters, helicopter crews and all emergency services who have been fighting the blazes day after day!

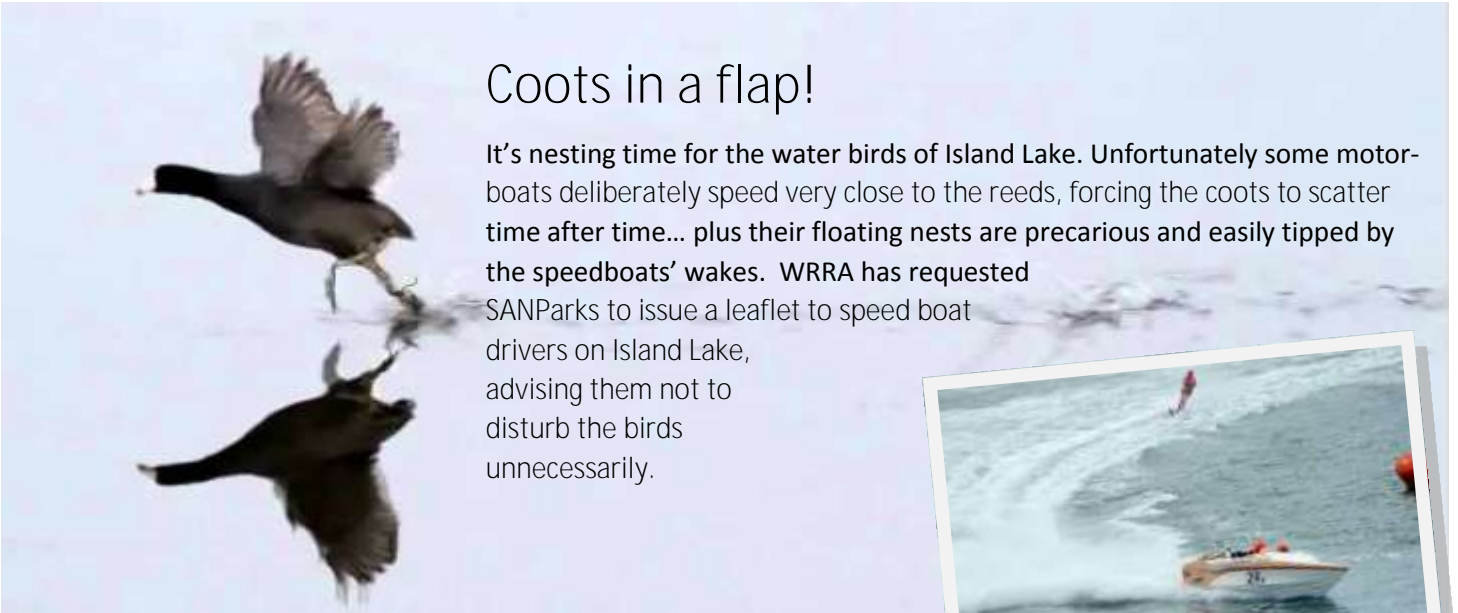


## Refuse & Recycling removal dates for the public holidays:

16/12/16 will be collected on 15/12/16  
 26/12/15 will be collected on 28/12/16

27/12/16 will be collected on 29/12/16  
 02/01/17 will be collected on 03/01/17





## Coots in a flap!

It's nesting time for the water birds of Island Lake. Unfortunately some motor-boats deliberately speed very close to the reeds, forcing the coots to scatter time after time... plus their floating nests are precarious and easily tipped by the speedboats' wakes. WRRRA has requested SANParks to issue a leaflet to speed boat drivers on Island Lake, advising them not to disturb the birds unnecessarily.



## Lake Road firebreak being 'monitored'

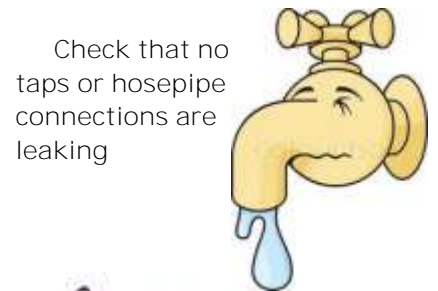
WRRRA has raised concerns about the reeds already growing through the newly graded firebreak along Lake Road. SANParks has responded by saying they are monitoring the situation.

## WATER CRISIS? – let's try and avoid it!

Remember 2010 when water restrictions had households bathing in an inch of water and then using the water to flush the loos? Well, Knysna and Sedgefield are already experiencing water restrictions. And we might be next, what with the current lack of normal rainfall - plus so many holidaymakers arriving!

Wilderness' primary source of water is the Touw River. The waterfall has dried up in the past and could do again! So we ALL need to use water sparingly now - and until very good rains arrive in the Touw River catchment area.

WRRRA asks B&Bs and Guest Houses to please pass this message on to their guests, most of whom will understand the situation... especially



Check that no taps or hosepipe connections are leaking



Mulch around plants to hold water in the soil.

Turn off the water while soaping hands and brushing teeth.



Turn off sink faucet while scrubbing dishes and pots.



Use a low flow showerhead.



Take shorter showers — five minutes or less is best.



# What you need to know about DOGS IN WILDERNESS

As dogs can't read, the laws and rules that apply to dogs in the Wilderness area obviously apply to dog owners and anyone walking a dog!

Kindly pass on these rules to those dog walkers who might not know about them...

1. You **MUST CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG** By law, dog walkers must carry sufficient bags to pick up and remove their dog's messes.
2. By law, all dogs are to be **ON LEASH** in all public places (beaches, streets, etc.) unless the area is designated otherwise. Look for the signs.
3. Vicious and dangerous dogs must be **MUZZLED** in public places for the safety of humans and other dogs!

See the full **ANIMAL KEEPING BY-LAW** on the George Municipality website.

Wilderness thanks you for your compliance.

Should dog owners **NOT** comply, the by-law will revert to a total **BAN** of dogs on municipal beaches!



Please check for the new **MAP** and **SIGNS** being put up at beach entrances.

## RED ZONE AREAS

### NO DOGS ALLOWED

- Kaaimans River mouth to Leinkiesklip
- The Blue Flag Beach area from the Touws River mouth to after Salinas.
- 7km before Gerickes Point



## ORANGE ZONES

### DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH

(unless there is a stated time exception)



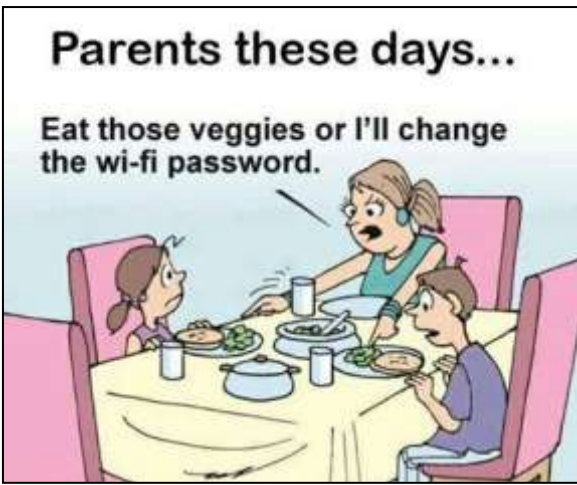
## GREEN ZONES

### DOGS under control may run free

- Kaaimans river parking to mouth
- East of the Blue Flag Beach area
- 1km west of the Beach Hotel
- 2km west of the Gousblom Crescent parking in Kleinkrantz







## Transnet begins clearing of rail reserve



A number of residents were horrified to see the extent of the bush clearing along sections of the Wilderness railway line. **Another case of ‘damned if you do and damned if you don’t’.** On the one hand, all stakeholders are making a big effort to clear potential fire hazards, like the railway reserve area and by SANParks along Lake Road. Some residents laud them for doing this and others object vehemently. One has to be pragmatic about these situations. Because the railway has not been in operation for years, the bush was allowed to become overgrown. The railway reserve should have in fact be kept clear and neat. Once the Choo Choo is in operation again, it will be imperative that this area is kept clear.

## Snoopy and the Red Baron are coming!

Twelve vintage pre-1949 Tiger Moth biplanes on the international Vintage Air Rally from Crete to the Cape, will land at George Airport on Friday 16 December at 06:45 for a two hour visit. These 1920's era classic aircrafts departed from Crete on Saturday 12 November on the 13 000 km flight across 10 countries in 35 days which will end in Stellenbosch on Saturday 17 December.

Best to take your telephoto lenses for your camera !





# CALLING WILDERNESS CRAFTERS

We all know that Wilderness hosts an abundance of local talented crafters who lovingly hand craft beautiful world class creations right here in Wilderness ..but many of us locals don't know about you!.

The WRRRA has been approached by one of the local businesses who have said that they would be happy to become an outlet for locally produced products. If you think this may be of interest to you and to Wilderness in general, please drop an email to [wrra@tiscali.co.za](mailto:wrra@tiscali.co.za) and we will put you in touch with each other.

Let's all Buy Local. Its Lekker !



Come on Wilderness Entrepreneurs !

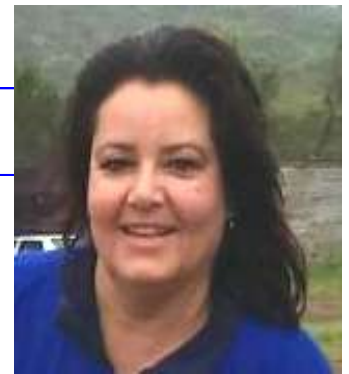
Mosselbay beat us to this easy idea of what to do in Wilderness!  
Get your thinking caps on .....

Visit [www.proemb.co.za](http://www.proemb.co.za) .

A Wilderness resident has been on this trip and had a great time.  
We have soooo much to offer here in Wilderness.



**Watch out for this man!** Knowing the municipality has too much on its plate to attend to the paving bricks coming lose on a steep corner going up to Constantia Kloof, WRRRA committee stalwart, Ian van Rooyen, has volunteered to fix the road himself! Please **don't run him over**, we need him!



## Council News Ward 4 Councillor : Marlene Viljoen

As we near the end of 2016, we can look back on a year that was full of changes, some good and some not so good. On a personal level, I took over as ward councillor from Leon van Wyk after an intense election campaign, a position that I am still settling into.

In Wilderness we saw the upgrading of the water reticulation in Waterside Road, a multi- million rand project, the start of the long awaited upgrading of Heights Road, the provision of water tanks to several families in Touwsrante, the paving of Outeniqua Street and several other projects being completed. The Village welcomed some 'new comers' when Palm Gardens Square opened in November. Welcome to all the new businesses and good luck with your business endeavours.

To alleviate the parking and traffic problem experienced in the Village over the festive season, the Municipality has created a temporary parking area at the top of the Common. Vehicles enter from Waterside Road. The rest of the Common can still be used by the public for

walking their dogs, playing soccer or just relaxing. This arrangement will only be in place until early January.

December means different things to different people. For most of us it means relaxing with family and friends and winding down after along, busy year. However, the festive season marks the busiest time of the year for many public servants. Our beaches will be manned by life guards, law enforcement staff will be stationed at beaches to search for alcohol and monitor the behaviour of the public, while the Traffic Department will also be on duty. This year, we will have cleaning staff on **the beach at both Salina's and Leentjiesklip, while law enforcement staff will be removing illegal hawkers.**

I send my Best wishes to all residents and readers for this festive season. May 2017 be filled with health, wealth and happiness.

Marlene



# SAFETY AND SECURITY

## DECEMBER SECURITY INITIATIVE

Thank you to everyone that has contributed to the security fund. Wilderness will be a safer place this December with SAPS being able to put more personnel on our streets.

It is NOT too late to still contribute and every cent raised will be put to good use, so if you have not already done so and want to help the WRRRA with the security initiative, then please bank your contributions directly into the NEW WRRRA bank account, **reference "Security Fund".**

Account Name : WRRRA at NEDBANK –Garden Route Mall Branch Code : 153614  
Acc No 1110522444

## 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' Security</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.



### SECURITY WHATSAPP GROUP PROTOCOLS

As these sites are monitored by W/O Bennie Boshoff of SAPS and some security companies such as MSec ,  
**PLEASE POST ESSENTIAL SECURITY INFO ONLY !**

Please do not react with "Thank you" or other acknowledgements or chit-chat. Such responses should be sent to the person's individual WhatsApp and NOT put on the Security WhatsApp so as to avoid distracting SAPS from their important work.



## Wilderness Improvement Program and Services Updates

### Dear Santa.... We want more Monitors for Xmas!

Thanks to the support of WRRRA members and income from businesses advertising on the wall near the garage, WRRRA is able to fund two additional monitors over this busy season. Mario and Piet will be joining the monitor team.

The village gardens have been hammered by the lack of rain, but again a WRRRA committee member has stepped in to provide a gardener to help water desperate plants at the circle. The same gardener is also going to address the weeds that the Municipality will not be able to spray before the 16<sup>th</sup> December.

### Helping to keep Wilderness litter free

Three new refuse bins have been placed at the bottom of the Common and on Waterside Road. Plus, thanks to the generosity of two WRRRA committee members, two more wood-clad refuse bins will soon be placed in the village; one on the south entry to the pedestrian tunnel (by the garage) and the other between the Palms Garden Square and the Info Office.



## ROADS & SERVICES

**Heights Road update** The contractors tell us that they are on schedule and that Heights Road will be open by Wednesday, 14 December, (maybe even a day or two earlier!) This photo shows the repair work undertaken on the most dangerous stretch of 120 metres. The road has been elevated and now awaits a temporary seal for the holiday season. Once open in mid-December, it will remain open until mid-January when it will then be completely closed again. They will again need the restricted work area to work on the entire road. And so, when it closes again in January, Whites Road will be the only option. Many have noted that the stop/go folks at the bottom and those on the road are not as well coordinated as we would hope. The contractors are aware of the problem and will attend to it. In any event, we advise caution on Whites Road, whether you're driving inside the stop/go area or not. Motorists driving in the Stop/Go area should NOT regard this as one-way traffic and use the wholewidth of the road. Local residents may join the road at any time and you may find them coming right at you! Patience!



### Seven Passes Road, Saasveld side

Many of the potholes on the Seven Passes Road (between the T-junction at Wilderness Heights and NMMU/Saasveld) have been temporarily repaired. But many remain unfilled and dangerous. The contractor will continue on these potholes as needed. Drive with caution. The whole section will be properly rebuilt next year.



### Clocked at 105kph along Waterside Road!

Can you believe it? This has made the application for speed calming measures on Waterside Road even more necessary. Strangely, Waterside is a Provincial (not Municipal) road, so the application had to be lodged with Province.



## A lot MORE rain please!

Summer is in full swing but where oh where is the normal rain? I guess that from a holiday perspective, nobody wants rain, but gardens and the veld are stressing under the intense heat. The brisk winds we have had of late are also increasing the likelihood of fires. So please, be extra careful when lighting braais and make sure they are COMPLETELY extinguished before leaving.

The WRRRA also reinforces and supports the complete ban on fireworks in Wilderness and the Garden Route National Park, including the so-called **“Chinese Lanterns”** that are very popular at this time of year.

Wilderness has had enough of fire tragedies!

## Hawkers and the Law

Although we all empathise with the need for South Africans to earn a living, the fact is the municipal by-law makes hawking illegal. And while one or two ladies selling beautiful bowls add some ambience to the village, what happens when another 10 arrive and then the beach-hat, ice-cream and fruit-sellers set up on the pavements - and so on? Unfortunately, the law says **“NO HAWKING”** – not **“well maybe one or two are okay”**!

A concerned member wrote to the WRRRA asking for hawkers to be accommodated. Being a municipal by-law, obviously all municipal land (that means roads, pavements, beaches, etc.) is ruled out, so Neville sent out an email asking private land owners in the CBD if they could provide an area for hawkers. But no response. Then fortunately a response came in -

Good morning Neville

[RE: Ladies selling wooden wares in Wilderness Village](#)

Apologies for not replying to your earlier e mail. I will see to it that the ladies selling wooden wares stay on private property. The ladies store their wares at Wilderness pharmacy at night and I know them by name.

Compliments of the Season.

Kind Regards,

Martin Grotepass *WILDERNESS PHARMACY*



AWESOME, Martin! Thank you!

## New Members Always Welcome

Take a minute to think about who you know that should be a WRRRA member. How about your neighbour to your left - and the one on your right? Look across the road. Do you see a future WRRRA member? Talk to them, encourage them, invite them.

And if *you* are not a WRRRA member but have been visiting the WRRRA website, or reading the WRRRA monthly newsletters (and find them full of really relevant and useful Wilderness information), or have attended a couple of the WRRRA organised talks - then please become a member at just R160 for 2017.

Find the [WRRRA Membership Application Form](#) on the website, complete and send to [wrra@tiscali.co.za](mailto:wrra@tiscali.co.za)

# HOEKWIL NEWS

WRRRA warmly welcomes Hoekwil Ratepayers and Residents Association members to this newsletter.

We hope you will contribute to this monthly publication in future by submitting Hoekwil news, photos and events to [donald@thebranchoffice.co.za](mailto:donald@thebranchoffice.co.za) by the 3rd of every month.

Councillor Marlene Viljoen confirmed that the tender for new street signs in Hoekwil has been awarded. If you know of a road sign that is in need of replacing, please send details to Marlene at [gmmarlenev@gmail.com](mailto:gmmarlenev@gmail.com)

*A dedicated Powerline Clearing team is being trained by the municipality and will be in action by February 2017. Land owners of Wilderness Heights and Hoekwil areas are asked to allow this team onto their properties to do this vital work and help prevent power outages and fire risks.*

**The Hoekwil satellite fire 'station' will not be re-opened.** However IDP funding has been approved for one in Kleinkranz for late 2016 or 2017. Kleinkranz was deemed ideal due to its proximity to the N2.

**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.



## Dates to Diarise:



### Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 18 December , 19.30 on the Wilderness Common.

Bring your own chairs, blanket, candle or light ... (and a picnic if you want)



A Country Market is being held on the 1st Saturday of every month at the Hoekwil Primary from 9 till 1pm.

The next one is on the 7th January 2017. 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)



## The Last Word



It was very encouraging to see the large crowd that participated in the 10 km Love Life Run organised by Cape Multisport Eden. Such events bring a lot of participants and supporters to Wilderness from as far afield as Mossel Bay and Knysna and of course, the early holiday makers. To the local business who sponsored the event, Blue Olive, Wilderness Pharmacy, Cocomo, Caltex Waves and the main sponsor, Sportsmans Warehouse, well done.

A huge thank-you goes to all our members and businesses that have contributed towards extra security over the coming weeks. I am very pleased to advise that we will be employing at least two additional full-time monitors that will focus on the area between the pedestrian tunnel at the garage and Sands Road. This area has become well known for petty theft and we hope to be ahead of the game in this area. This is over and above the additional resources that W/O. Bennie Boshoff organises which are also funded from your contributions.

Again, just a reminder to people who want to walk the railway line between Wilderness and Vic Bay, only to do this in groups of at least 5 and, if possible, include men in the group. **Please don't flaunt valuables such as expensive cameras and mobile phones** or leave them in cars where they are visible to passers by.

As we closed off our last committee meeting for the year, it reminded me of just how much planning and work goes into making sure that throughout the year, Wilderness delivers what we want to our residents and holiday makers alike. Thank you and well done to your committee and our councillor, Marlene Viljoen.

If you celebrate Christmas, let me take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas. **If you don't, I hope this holiday season is everything you wished for** and to everyone, may your time with family and friends be very special.

Until 2017,

Cheers

Neville

Seasons  
greetings

Happy  
Newyear

