

Bries Breeze

AUGUSTUS/AUGUST 2004

ROOI-ELS BELASTINGBETALERSVERENIGING (REBV) POSBUS 89 BETTYSBAAI 7141
ROOI-ELS RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION (RERA) PO BOX 89 BETTY'S BAY 7141

EDITORIAL

A STORY OF CARING

The Breeze chronicles our stories of living in Rooi Els. These stories say something about who we are, what we do and how we belong to our world. They bear testimony to a community that is passionate about preserving and caring for its natural environment and fellow creatures.

There are stories of paradise found. A place where our senses are celebrated and where we feel truly alive. We tell of the wild joy of swimming with otters and of letting our hearts soar with the eagles above Klein Hangklip.

But we also tell of paradise lost and heartbreak when some part of the Rooi Els we hold precious is destroyed. We tell of our pain when we find a small buck caught in a snare and of our anger when the beach is smothered by pollution. There is shame and remorse when we find that we have allowed our squabbles, egos and power play to cause harm to one another and to the environment.

Each one of us is connected in this web of life. It is no co-incidence, that you and I, with our particular humanity, quirks and idiosyncracies, find ourselves sharing this space, Rooi Els. It is indeed a special privilege. It is here that our individual stories become part of the living fabric of a greater story - the story of intertwined lives, of our community at the foot of Klein Hangklip.

Therefore you are just as important to Rooi Els as Rooi Els is to you. You and I are the joint authors of the story of Rooi Els. And it is up to us to decide in each moment of doing, exactly where we want this story to take us..

ESTELLE RAYMOND



WINTER - ROOI ELS BEACH

"NOU LÊ DIE AARDE NAGTELANG EN WEEK IN DIE DONKER STIL GENADE VAN DIE REËN"
- NP VAN WYK LOUW

FROM THE CHAIR



JULIA AALBERS
RERA CHAIRPERSON

Wouldn't it be wonderful if Rooi Els was always as temperate as it has been through June and July, with a long succession of windless, sunny, warm days and smooth seas! The jewel, Rooi Els, has been bathing in its beauty and peace for all who have had a mind to look with appreciative eyes. And even when the weather turns to rain and storm, the natural beauty still lives on ... Truly we are blessed!

The RERA Exco has met monthly and applied itself diligently to preserving the natural beauty and charm of our village. Contentious issues such as erf 324 and attempts to develop surrounding smallholdings continue to test our resolve to protect our valuable natural heritage. We also explored with the Ward Committee member the possibility of acquiring land for an eco-centre/community centre via the community improvement district mechanism.

We continue to work constructively with the Municipality and its structures to improve services and secure our just deserves as ratepayers. The lack of budgetary provision for maintenance and improvements remains a serious concern that we must deal with. Improved relations with the Municipal officials, however, bode well for the future.

A milestone was reached in the village's history with the workshop in July on roads, walkways, parking and fire-fighting issues. All the organisations within our community and a senior Municipal official were present and participated to put together draft recommendations for you to comment and improve upon. See elsewhere in this edition of the Breeze for a summary and watch your post box for the resultant report and questionnaire. Hopefully, this workshop will set the trend for resolving other problems within our community and see the end of rivalry amongst organisations within our community.

LIDMAATSKAP OF SKENKINGS

REBV BANKREKENINGNOMMER:

ABSA 29-0016-6152

TAKKODE 334-712

STUUR LIDMAATBESONDERHEDE AAN: DIE SEKRETARIS, REBV, POSBUS 89,
BETTY'SBAAI, 7141.

SNARES AND POACHING

There have been several instances of snares being set in Rooi Els. A small buck was trapped and killed in one. In all the cases workers on building sites were suspected. Some have been seen using a stick to swipe the legs from underneath a francolin, to catch it. The remains of a porcupine, that had been cooked on site, were found, as well as tortoise remains. Where workers overnight on the site the problems seem worse. I have also found heaps of baby abalone shells on a building site in our street. Some time back I caught a worker with 30 small abalone, that he had just poached.

This is a drain on our wildlife and abalone and not fit behavior in a biosphere. It is mainly a question of education though, as many workers who set snares, probably see it as fair game. I have found a language barrier in some cases, thus it is best to speak to the builder in charge and alert him to poaching problems or such issues as plastic pollution coming from the site. The municipality has been asked to give a letter to builders that warns them about these issues. If you would like one to give to a builder, and/or to go over some of the points on it with them, you can check at our Biosphere Eco centre or call me at 028 2738483. Craig Spencer has asked that such instances of snaring and poaching be reported to him immediately, by SMS or phone 082 414 8867.

EVETTE WEYERS



ROADS, PARKING AND WALKWAYS WORKSHOP

"Of course Rooi Els property owners have different opinions, different needs and different desires. But unfortunately there is no such thing as a wide, narrow, straight, winding, pot-holed, tarred, paved, dust-free, dirt road! So we are going to have to formulate a proposal that satisfies **as many criteria as possible** for **as many people as possible**. This implies that **many compromises** will have to be made to serve the greater good of Rooi Els."

So read the introductory slide to a workshop held on Saturday 10th July at which representatives of the various organisations that operate within Rooi Els engaged to develop a unified proposal on what we Rooi Elers want our roads to be like in the future. Of course, once we were all together, we found that we don't really have such divergent views because we all want to preserve the atmosphere that our narrow, fynbos-lined roads create in our village!

The workshop was attended by representatives from each of the Rooi Els Ratepayers' Association, the Conservancy, the Rooi Els Inhabitants' Association, the Nature Reserve Liaison Committee, the Boat Club, the Save Klein Hangklip Association, the Biosphere Reserve Action Group. We are particularly grateful to Cecile Jonkheid, the Area Manager for the Hangklip-Kleinmond Administration of the Overstrand Municipality, who attended and participated in the workshop.

"Rooiels het die laaste jare ontwikkel tot 'n ongekunstelde vakansie en aftreeplek. Die smal gruisstrate kronkel tussen mooi huise en fynboslandskap deur met werklike mooi rotsstrande en 'n swemplek. Gaan stap gerus daar rond en geniet dit."
UIT: DIE BURGER, 22 APRIL 2003

The workshop objective agreed by those attending was:

To agree the contents of a unified proposal which will be presented to the Municipality as the wishes of Rooi Els property owners and residents for safe, serviceable roadways, in keeping with the requirements, environment and character of the village.

A document has been produced setting out the recommendations put forward by the workshop. This will be distributed in August to all property owners along with a questionnaire to be completed and returned to the Municipality. The purpose of the questionnaire is to ensure that there is broad support for the recommendations before the Municipality takes any action to approve and prepare to implement the proposals.



ANNE JONES, ROB FREYER & EVETTE WEYERS

Of course, some proposals may have to be modified by the Municipality to take account of legal requirements with which representatives at the workshop are not familiar. In addition, aspects of the proposals will require finance which has not been budgeted in the current financial year. The community will have to work with the Municipality to finalise details of the proposals and to prioritise and motivate expenditure through the Ward Committee. The benefit of a unified proposal will be that the whole community will have mandated the proposals and the Municipality will have authorised this from a technical and legal perspective.



HETTIE CLAASSENS & ELDIE BRINK

The question of parking was not resolved at the workshop. Cecile agreed to include an investigation of the need for demarcated parking areas into the remit of the consultants who have been appointed to prepare the spatial development plan for the Overstrand. These consultants will engage with representatives of our Rooi Els community on the parking issue in due course.

The workshop was expertly facilitated by Chris Burlock. It was a good learning experience for all who attended and hopefully sets the tone for further joint problem-solving workshops in the future!



TERSIA KING, IZAK LESSING, CHRIS BURLOCK & CECILE JONKHEID

ROB FRYER

"THE BUMPS IN THE ROAD JUST MAKE THE RIDE MORE FUN"

SOIL, ROADS, DUST AND FYNBOS

I have had two samples of the (external) soil from our roads analysed at the University of Cape Town. The soil from the roads had a pH of 5.8 and from the fields it was 5.4. This means that there is effectively no difference in the pH of the two soils. (Typically samples from the *same* site will differ by more than 0.4 units.) Fears of external soil on the roads changing the surrounding pH of the soil can thus be laid to rest.



Dust from roads is often assumed to be detrimental to surrounding vegetation that becomes coated with fine particles, especially during prolonged periods without rain. While dusty plants might appear unattractive there is scant evidence that they suffer any real harm. In fact there is evidence that plants may even benefit from acquiring a dusty coat! The reasons for this are indirect because dust is known to be a very effective insecticide.

Insects on dusty plants acquire particles which scrape against their exoskeleton and abrade the fine outer surface layers of wax that make up the water proof coating. This damage prevents the insects from retaining moisture and causes death or disability. As a result, insects avoid areas where dust is prevalent such as on plants along roads and plants in these situations suffer less damage from insects than their counterparts in areas without dust.

This raises the issue of whether the plants 'deserve' such protection or should nature be allowed to take its course and the insects and plants be left to interact as they have done for many thousands of years. In an ideal world this would be the most satisfactory situation, but Rooiels is no longer an ideal world from the plants' point of view. The vegetation has suffered severe and irreversible degradation, especially through construction of dwellings. It seems reasonable then that any protection should be encouraged for the remaining patches of unspoilt fynbos. Dust from roads may even make a small contribution towards this end and certainly won't unnecessarily exacerbate the situation for the plants.

JOHN H. HOFFMANN

ABOUT ROADS AND FIRE BREAKS

It is a fact that external material is needed to stabilize the sand in Rooi Els to create roads and that care must be taken regarding the chemical and other properties of such material. In the past, our roads were graded without consideration of waterflow and velocity. The gravel formed a hump next to the road. These humps must be graded back into the road. A positive move by the municipality has been the creation of run offs for rain water. Just look at the germination of indigenous flora at these run off points.

Gravel roads are part of the rugged, rural image that creates Rooi Els and are by far more environmentally friendly than tar. It should be kept in mind that:

1. Oil/fuel leakages of vehicles biologically break down very slowly on tar. With the first rains this will be carried into the fynbos alongside.
2. Runoff is much greater on tar as water penetration is very low, causing flooding problems. The cost of a substantial drainage system would be too high - also in environmental terms.
3. Tar roads require hard core material, leading to even larger amounts of foreign material being brought into Rooi Els.
4. Speeding will lead to more fauna being killed. Tar roads attract reptiles and other animals at night, due to the radiation of heat.

In the light of allegations that some of our streets are "overgrown", it should be kept in mind that to indiscriminately remove indigenous vegetation will create problems. Perhaps the Conservancy in co-operation with Nature Conservation and the Hack Group, could set up a management plan to selectively remove identified plants to a program. The plant often complained of is the indigenous *Metasia muricata* (blombos). Blombos is a pioneer plant that settles very fast on disturbed areas, such as road verges and has the following advantages:



1. It stabilises disturbed areas and creates a habitat for the more sensitive flora to settle.
2. It catches the dust from the roads and saves the more sensitive plants.
3. It stops erosion during heavy downpour and contains wind erosion.
4. It is an integral part of our endemic fynbos and the whole ecosystem.

After discussions with Parks Board Fire Management officials (with whom I work closely), I am convinced that our existing roads serve as fantastic fire breaks. No fire breaks are thus needed in our residential areas, excluding the outskirts.

We know that *Homo sapiens* is the most adaptable species. Let us then not force nature to adapt to us, but let us rather adapt to nature. Nature will not survive the other way round.

ROOI ELS CONSERVANCY 93 MEMBERS SO FAR AND GOING STRONG

The First General Meeting on 1 May was well attended in spite of the downpour of rain. The EXCO elected is Niklaus Bol (Treasurer), Eldie Brink, Debby de Vries (Chairman), Rob Fryer, Anne Jones (Secretary), Werner Modinger (Vice-chairman) and Estelle Raymond.

The biggest role the Conservancy has thus far played, is as a communication link between all organisations and roleplayers in Rooi Els in matters which affect the conservation and environmental concerns of Rooi Els and our members.

The roads and fireplan is well in hand with the Conservancy participating at the workshop arranged by the municipality. It is also hoped that a RE Conservancy member will serve on the District Fire Protection Plan committee, which will be part of the Overstrand Fire Protection Plan.

The Conservancy will shortly be making an award to a builder currently working in Rooi Els. Mr Sam Pretorius and his crew of workers will be receiving a *Certificate of Recognition* that acknowledges their attempts to conserve the fynbos on the site, the conservative use of water, the maintenance of a tidy site with no littering or pollution of adjoining properties and the road. It is hoped that recognition of eco-sensitive builders will encourage others to follow suit.



An observation made, is how the light pollution situation in Rooi Els has improved. Many outside lights have been shaded or muted so that the light does not compete with the starlight.

Several of the RE Conservancy members have been invited to participate in the NBI Environmental Education project. This is a golden opportunity for the conservation / community ethos that the Conservancy wishes to extend to the larger community, to be promoted.

A promising development is the interest shown in creating more village conservancies in the Kogelberg. The Rooi Els Conservancy was invited to address the Federation of Ratepayers to advise and encourage other villages and towns to follow suit.



ONTMOET DIE SPAN: ROB FRYER, KLAUS BOL, DEBBY DE VRIES, ELDIE BRINK, ESTELLE RAYMOND & WERNER MODINGER (ANNE JONES WAS AFWESIG)

Die Bewarea, in samewerking met verskeie Belastingbetalersverenings, die Overstrand Bewarings Stigting en WKNB Kogelberg, hou 'n wakende oog oor die omstrede SHARE blompluk projek. Die inkorporering van Erf 1, die Koppie en die kusstrook in die natuurreservaat, wat al jare deur die munisipaliteit vertraag word, word ook noukeurig dopgehou. Dit veral, omdat ons Omgewingsadviesraad onwettig deur die Munisipaliteit afgeskaf is.

We would like to invite your suggestions for the designs for a feature (a stone wall or a boulder) that will hold the Conservancy Logo at the main entrance to Rooi Els. It is the idea that this feature will partially obscure the waste station screen and that it be built into a berm so that it becomes part integrated with the natural vegetation. As the first village in the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve and on the Whale Route on the coastal route from the West, it is apt that Rooi Els makes itself known as a conservation village.

Many thanks to individual members of the Conservancy who quietly go about various acts that ensure that their piece of Rooi Els is being preserved, be it the litter they collect, the paths they construct, the clearing of overgrown vegetation in the paths and servitudes, the packing of seaweed to prevent unwanted paths on the dunes, those who enlist new members for the Conservancy, those who attend conservation-oriented meetings and lastly, the ones who are often forgotten, the translators of the Conservancy newsletters and documents.

Please let us know your ideas and concerns.

DEBBY DE VRIES
rooiels@isat.co.za
TEL 028 2738037

WYSIES IN DIE WIND

DIE AAND TOE ROOIERSERS LEER SING HET...

Musiekkenner Stefanie van Dyk het op 3 Julie op 'n nat en stormagtige wintersaand kom praat oor klassieke musiek. Sowat 30 Rooiersers en Pringlebaaiers het voor Pierre en Louise du Toit se knetterende kaggelvuur met 'n glas wyn in die hand, opnuut weer besef hoe plesierig die winter kan wees.

Tot ons verbasing het die entoesiastiese Stefanie die aand afgeskop deur ons almal soos 'n wafferse koor te laat sing "Viva musica!" (Lank lewe die musiek!). Stefanie glo dat almal kan sing: "Mens moet net jou kop-stem vind en nie jou praat-stem gebruik nie." Onder Stefanie se leiding het ons groepie nogal glad nie te sleg geklink nie!

Ons het geluister na hoe musiek in die middeleeue daar uitgesien het en ontwikkel het deur die barok, klassieke, romantiese en moderne tydperke. Stefanie het ons geleer van mottette, tuttis, kadenzas, cantatas, sonatas en nog baie meer. Dit was verbasend hoe 'n bietjie kennis 'n mens in staat kon stel om 'n musiekstuk selfs nog meer te geniet en te waardeer. Ons het met nuwe ore en waardering geluister na Handel se Messias en hoe die komponis deur middel van die slim gebruik van note die betekenis van die spesifieke woorde na vore bring.

Nog 'n hoogtepunt was om te luister na Vivaldi se "Winter" uit sy bekende "Vier Seisoene" terwyl Stefanie terselfdertyd die gedig wat Vivaldi deur middel van hierdie musiek uitgebeeld het, vir ons voorgehou het. Hierdie stuk is "program musiek", dit wil sê musiek wat spesifiek gekomponeer is om 'n bepaalde iets, in hierdie geval die vier seisoene, uit te beeld.



DINE VAN ZYL & SANDRA KOTZE



JENNY STARK, STEFANIE VAN DYK & EVETTE WEYERS

Ons het die aand afgesluit met die inspirerende "Finlandia" van Sibelius. Daarna het ons as 'n toegif geluister na die dramatiese en roerende orrelspel van Zorada Temmingh op die orrel van die Moederkerk, Stellenbosh. Dit het ons harte gevul en bo die musiek van die woeste branders daarbuite gedreun en gedawer, groots en ryk soos Klein Hangklip en die elemente daarbuite.

Vrywilligers het heerlike sop gemaak en brood gebring. Die aand het ons is na liggaam en siel verkwik gelaat.

'n Reeks van ses opvolgpraatjies op Saterdagoggende word beplan. As jy belangstel om deel te neem kontak Evette Weyers om besonderhede.

ESTELLE RAYMOND

TINEKE HONIG VERTEL:

"ERENS IN DIE HIMALAYAS IS DAAR 'N STAM WAAR DIT SO GAAN - AS 'N MAN EN 'N VROU BESLUIT HULLE WIL TROU DAN MOET HULLE EERS BAIE LANK OEFEN TOTDAT HULLE IN HARMONIE SAAM KAN SING, DIT VAT MINSTENS EEN JAAR. WAT 'N INSIG EN BESKAWING SPREEK DAARUIT!"

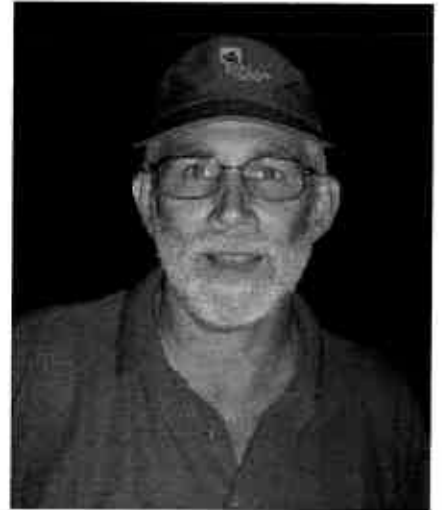
6

MUSIEK DRUK DIT UIT WAT NIE MET WOORDE GESÊ KAN WORD NIE EN WAAROM DIT ONMOONTLIK IS OM TE SWEIG.

-VICTOR HUGO (1802 1885)

NUUS VAN DIE ROOIELS BOOTKLUB

Die komitee verstaan dat parkering 'n netelige problem is waarmee Rooielsers asook besoekers worstel, veral gedurende die somermaande en tydens die kreefseisoen. Op die AJV is daar dus versoek dat lede nie die parkeerarea op Hotel Crescent sal gebruik vir treilers nie en dat wanneer ander strate in die glipweg omgewing vir parkering gebruik word, die toegange na erwe nie versper word nie. Daar is ook, as 'n tydelike maatregel, parkering vir boot treilers beding op erf 64 (Bathersweg). Daar is egter nog heelwat werk nodig tov die skoonmaak-proses van die perseel maar ons vertrou dat dit gereed sal wees voor die drukte van die seisoen.



Die jaarlikse bootinspeksies vind op 25 September 2004 plaas. Bote sal die dag in Ixiaweg parkeer sal word tydens hierdie ondersoeke. Dit mag verkeersvloei beïnvloed en alle Rooielsers se geduld en begrip word hiervoor gevra.

BOAT CLUB MEMBERS

The lock of the boom to the slipway will be changed on 31 October and the new keys will be available from Margaret Henson at the shop on condition that a valid boat survey certificate and skipper's license are produced together with the payment of the annual subscription fees.

Die Bootklub sal ook van tyd tot tyd, op 'n ad hoc basis, fondse bewillig om te help met die skoonmaak van die strand area na die besoedeling wat die Noordwester bring. Die komitee verwelkom enige insette om verhoudinge tussen die Bootklub en inwoners op 'n goeie voet te hou.

PIET UYS

CONCERN ABOUT FALSE BAY POLLUTION

On Monday, 7 June 2004 a mini-disaster hit Rooi Els beach. A flood of rubbish was deposited on the small beach over a stretch of about 200 meters in a moderate North-Westerly wind. In the 14 years that we have been living here, this is the worst incident of this nature.

A careful examination of the rubbish revealed the following:
It consisted mostly of litter that would primarily be generated by children, such as sweet wrappers, soft drink plastic straws, plastic frozen sucker wrappers, plastic soft drink bottle tops, potato chip packets, baby and toddler shoes, party paraphernalia such as balloons, streamers and rosettes, parts of dolls, plastic deodorant containers, and an astounding number of plastic tops. Over a stretch of about 200 meters I picked up 82 of them. This litter was mostly new. The wrappers and plastic containers were not faded in any way and were fresh. There were many state-sponsored condoms in their wrappings displaying the HIV/Aids logo as well. Given the North-Westerly wind this litter could have emanated from any point along the Muizenberg, Strandfontein, Monwabizi, Macasser, Strand, Gordon's Bay or Kogelbay stretch of coast. A German tourist couple expressed their disgust, saying among other things that if this was the visible pollution, what must the rest of the bay be like?



There is one positive point however. When I looked around for a plastic bag in which to carry the 82 tops, I couldn't find one! We had to fetch one from our house. This proves to my mind that an anti-pollution policy such as the plastic bag restrictions implemented by ex-Minister Valli Moosa can and does work.

I can only conclude that this litter was generated over a short period of time, e.g. over the weekend of 5 to 6 June at a children's function of some sort or at a weekend beach resort. Subsequently it was collected by cleaners and dumped in the sea in one batch.

ANDRÉ WAGENER

Ed: Overstrand Municipality promised to take the matter up with the Metro.

KUS PROJEK: "ADOPT A BEACH"

Ons land het 'n kuslyn wat oor ongeveer 3,000 kilometers strek, vanaf die Oranjerivier in die Noordkaap tot by Kwazulu-Natal se grens met Mosambiek. Saam met die Coast Care program borg die regering die Adopt-a-Beach projek wat tans deur WESSA (Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa) geïmplimenteer word. Die doel is om hierdie kus beter te beskerm deur 'n meer ingeligte publiek, asook om meer strande tot Blou Vlag status te bevorder.

Rooiels neem nou ook deel aan die landswye "Adopt-a-beach" projek. Balangstellende groepe neem elk 'n strand aan en leer die area beter ken (o.a. die see, plante- en dierelewe van die gebied). Op strand-uitstappies versamel hulle inligting oor die gebied se fauna en flora, besoedeling en ander kwessies. In die Noord- en Weskaap is 35 strande oor die 1000 km kuslyn "aangeneem" en die groepe sal sorg dat die strande gesond word of bly.

Andreas Claassens het ons verteenwoordig by die werkswinkel in WESSA se hoofkantoor in Kaapstad en hy het met 'n trommel vol boeke, plakkaat en instrumente teruggekom, insluitend 'n cleoskoop waarmee mens die veranderende profiel van wandelende sandduine meet. (250 van die trommels was landswyd beskikbaar vir deelnemers, met handboeke in 4 tale)

By Rooiels het ons die gedeelte van die strand aangeneem wat strek vanaf die Rooiels brug tot by die punt van die baai (noordelike einde van Rocklands weg). Dit sluit dus 'n riviermonding, sandstrand en rotspoele in - 'n diverse habitat. Annemarie Breytenbach (sy't die eko-sentrum in Pringlebaai begin) en Jeanny Miles, (sy't vroeër baie seewerksinkels gegee) het by ons aangesluit en hulle het die strand by Pringlebaai aangeneem, as deel van die projek.

Op Rooiels het ons vier uitstappies gehad tot dusver. Op een uitstappie het ons poging om die wandelende sandduin met die cleoskoop te meet misluk, omdat mens nie die see-horisonlyn van daar kon insluit nie. Dawid van der Merwe het egter met 'n unieke idee voorendag gekom om die dieselfde resultaat te kry. Hou gerus dop wat gebeur op die sandduin, wat oor die voetpaadjie naby die punt beweeg.

Ons het 2 werksinkels gedurende die vakansie gereël waar almal meer geleer het oor die see. Dit het onder andere behels:

- Hoe kan jy oordeel waar 'n veilige plek is om te swem, slegs deur die golwe dop te hou?
- Wat het die grootte van die sandkorrels hiermee te make?
- Hoe kan jy vasstel waar die terugstrome in die see is, wat soms so gevaarlik kan wees, en wat moet jy doen as jy in een beland?

Andreas Claassens, branderplankryer en duiker, kon heelwat vertel oor hierdie vroeë asook oor die strome, terugstrome en branderformasie.

Besoedeling was ook iets waarna ons gekyk het. Dit affekteer die strand en see. (Daar was reeds massiewe besoedeling ongeveer 3 weke gelede toe André Wagener 82 tolle opgetel het op die klein strandjie saam met baie rommel.)

Plastiekbesoedeling is baie algemeen en baie nadelig, veral vir seeskilpaaie en sekere visse. Hulle verwar die stukkie plastiek wat in die water dryf met klein jellievisse (hulle kos) en sluk dit in. Die plastiek bly onverteerd in hulle mae tot sommige van hulle later van die honger sterf. 'n Walvis het 'n paar jaar terug uitgespoel met 32 kg onverteerde plastiek in sy maag, en hy is dood aan gebrek aan kos. Ons span het dus plastiek opgetel, veral die klein roomys sakkies (Bunny Licks) wat gereeld in hope hier uitspoel.

Die dag het ook iets besonder opgelewer. Ons was gelukkig genoeg om 5 walvisse in die Rool Els-baai te sien en hulle het behoorlik 'n hele vertoning vir ons gegee. As jy belangstel om deel te neem aan hierdie projek, skakel my gerus.

EVETTE WEYERS
028-2758483



BABOONS TOO SMART FOR COMFORT . . .

Willingly or not, Rooi Elers valiantly continue their efforts to "outwit the baboons" and, despite our sense of human superiority, sometimes still fail badly. The trouble is that we have to be constantly vigilant, remembering to keep doors and windows double-latched ALL THE TIME. Not long ago, we had to start replacing all conventional outside door handles with round knobs. Now, a new challenge emerges! About 18 months ago the Biosphere Reserve Action Group [BRAG] received the first report of a baboon lifting a sliding door off its tracks to gain entry into a house. The first time it happened was probably accidental, but within 8 months it had become a regular practice.

While Rooi Elers had observed the latest baboon challenge with some equanimity, the evolutionary leap of the 'sekelsterte' was NOT appreciated among Pringle Bay residents! In December 2003, the PB Ratepayers Association formed a Baboon Action Group [PB-BAG] and local residents began to organize themselves into vigilante groups ranging from whistle-blowing warnings to a "bakkie brigade" that took to the streets and fired anything from catapults to handguns at the animals.

At the first PB-BAG public meeting in January 2004, one resident remarked that "*ducking bullets on an evening walk is far more dangerous than having baboons trash my house*", but the logic seemed lost on the increasingly angry and frustrated audience. Instead, the man who claimed that "*we don't want to kill the baboons we want to hurt them so much they won't come back*" received an ovation.

BRAG organized a second public meeting at the end of April. Chaired by Ambassador Casper Venter, the meeting was attended by 170 people who put their views and questions to a panel of 8 local 'baboon experts' - some internationally recognized for their work in urban, human-baboon conflict.



CHRIS BURLOCK AND JENNY STARK FROM BRAG WITH THE BABOON REPORT

A report of the meeting was issued on International Environment Day, and distributed to panel members, stakeholders and various Ratepayers and Residents Associations.

On 19 June the Mayor called another public meeting. This time, the 'big guns' of the Municipality formed the panel, and included Willie Smuts (Mayor), Jan Koekemoer (Manager) and Cecile Jonkheid (Area Manager). They promised to implement most of the recommendations in the document. These include:

1. Investigating effective partnerships between the authorities and the community.
2. Providing baboon-proof bins in public areas in Pringle Bay and Rooi Els.
3. Erecting notice boards forbidding the feeding of baboons.
4. Implementing regulations, laws and bylaws. [Volunteers might be trained and used for this purpose].
5. Investigating various baboon management options such as feeding stations and 'baboon monitors'.

The Mayor has agreed to a follow-up meeting in September to monitor progress.

JENNY STARK

A NEW GENERATION SPEAKS OUT

IN A PREVIOUS EDITION OF THE BREEZE, FOUR WOMEN SPOKE ABOUT WHAT THEY VALUED ABOUT ROOI ELS AND HOW THEY SAW ROOI ELS IN 15 YEARS' TIME. HERE ARE THE VIEWS OF SOME YOUNG ROOI ELSERS:

ANDREW CLARKSON (15 YEARS)

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT ROOI ELS?

The sea in front of us. Even on a rainy day one can watch the sea and when the wind blows we play board games. Rooi Els is so uncrowded. I don't want my parents to buy a house anywhere else.

The people in Rooi Els are cool. A few years ago my friends and I had a Halloween party in Rooi Els and went knocking on people's doors and one guy even made pancakes especially for us.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE ROOI ELS TO BE IN 15 YEARS' TIME?

The same. With less poaching and more sea urchins, limpets and mussels in the rock pools.



MADELEINE CLARKSON (13 YEARS)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN COMING TO ROOI ELS?

Ever since I was born. My parents bought the house when my brother Daniel was a baby - about 17 years ago.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT ROOI ELS?

Its not far from Cape Town but we have lots of wildlife - like the mongoose living next to our house or a whale swimming by. The other night we had a genet on the windowsill looking in.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ROOI ELS IN 15 YEARS'?

I would like it to be even more wild with lots of space between the houses.

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR ROOI ELS?

Help to pick up rubbish all over the town and on the beach.



GREG MILLER (15 YEARS)

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT ROOI ELS?

What I like about Rooi Els is that its so different. Away from everything. And its so windy - perfect for kites!

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ROOI ELS IN 15 YEARS' TIME?

Much the same. Maybe more young people, but the same. Definitely not more development.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

I hack.

WHAT SHOULD THE COMMUNITY OF ROOI ELS DO?

Limit further development.

'N NUWE GENERASIE ROOI ELSERS



STEPHAN DU TOIT
DERDE GENERASIE ROOI ELSER, GRAAD 10, WELLINGTON

HOE LANK HET JOU FAMILIE AL 'N HUIS OP ROOI ELS?

My oupa het die erf teen die see in 1968 gekoop vir R750. Destyds het die erwe teen die berg net R350 gekos!

WAT WAARDEER JY DIE MEESTE OMTRENT ROOI ELS?

Dit is so afgeleë maar is ook so naby. Dit voel vir my soos die Paradys. Ek's mal daarvoor om in die poele te snorkel - mens voel so vry, amper asof jy vlieg. Hier's nog heelwat seelewe soos seesterre en seekatte. Dis ook vir my baie lekker om berg te klim. Dis pragtig van daar bo af - die see lyk so groot. En hier's alle soorte mense en niemand voel "uit" nie.

HOE WIL JY GRAAG HÊ MOET ROOI ELS OOR 15 JAAR LYK?

Net soos dit is. Net nie teerstrate - asseblief tog nie! Dit sal goed wees as dit soos 'n privaatplek kan wees sodat dit nie oorstroom word deur besoekers wat niks omgee vir die natuur en die see nie.

WAT KAN JY DOEN OM BY TE DRA TOT ROOI ELS?

Ek het vandag die (uitheemse) garingbome op ons erf uitgehaal. Ek wil meer plaaslike inheemse plante in ons tuin plant.

TORY MILLER (MATRIC, 18 YEARS)

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT ROOI ELS?

Being able to totter up the mountains all be myself. And I love being able to sit on the rocks and watch the sea when its rough.

WHAT SHOULD THE COMMUNITY OF ROOI ELS DO?

Clean up after themselves and conserve the environment. They must keep large scale development and sub-division to the minimum.

DANIEL CLARKSON (MATRIC, 18 YEARS)

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT ROOI ELS?

I also love snorkelling with the otters in the bay in front of our house. The first time that happened I thought that a dog was swimming with me. I climbed onto a rock and little otter faces popped up all around me. They were so cute!

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ROOI ELS IN 15 YEARS' ?

Rooi Els must stay small. I don't want it to expand.

I'd like to see the whole coastline become a marine reserve so that there will once again be perlemoen on the rocks and in the rock pools.

I would like to see people becoming more educated about the baboons and less violent towards them. Today I saw some people throwing stones at the baboons after they'd been in a house. That's way too late and serves no purpose. We've only had one "hit" by baboons in 17 years.

I'd like to keep our gravel roads, though bricking would also be okay. No tarring please, that would be way to much city!



YOUTH IS HAPPY BECAUSE IT HAS THE ABILITY TO SEE BEAUTY, ANYONE WHO KEEPS THE ABILITY TO SEE BEAUTY, STAYS YOUNG.

-FRANZ KAFKA

STONE AGE MENAGERIE

ELEPHANTS, CAMELS, A HIPPO AND A MERMAID...

Identifying the fauna in and around Rooi Els has always been a source of interest to many Rooielsers. In addition to those animals most commonly observed, there are several that perhaps are not so well known.

For instance, there is the elephant that can be seen when approaching Rooi Els from Kogel Bay. There he stands as the steadfast guardian of the village and our community.

Someway to the South on the smallholdings there is the hippo standing in isolation. He must find this somewhat boring as he appears to be engaged always in a perpetual yawn.

Then there are no less than TWO camels! One on each side of Container Bay. As the camels cannot claim to be indigenous to this area, it is hoped that no-one reading this will disclose their whereabouts to the authorities - lest they suffer the same fate as the Table Mountain Tahrs!



A YAWNING HIPPO?



THE CAMEL ON THE SMALLHOLDING TO THE EAST OF CONTAINER BAY



OP ROOIELS KOPPIE - DIE KOP VAN 'N OER-BOBBEJAAN?



LOUISE DU TOIT EN LIDA VAN DYK BY DIE DU TOIT'S SE KAMEEL



THE ELEPHANT

KLEIN HANGKLIP IS EVER PRESENT IN ROOI ELS. DAY AND NIGHT, WIND, RAIN OR SHINE THIS ANCIENT ROCK STANDS GUARD.

LOOK CAREFULLY AND YOU WILL SEE THE FACE OF A WISE OLD ELEPHANT, NOT ONCE BUT THREE TIMES, IN DIFFERENT PROFILES FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES.

The caves provide the clues as they are the eyes. Stand on the beach and see him in full face sleeping in the mid day sun. Head along Ocean View Drive towards Pringle Bay and admire his handsome profile. Stand in the Nature Reserve and look up and be overwhelmed by his full presence.

In the Hindu culture, Shri Ganesha, is the ancient elephant headed god who protects innocence and is known for his wisdom. His colour is red. It seems very appropriate to have a Red Elder in Rooi Els our own emblem for the guardian of pristine nature and childhood. Make his acquaintance and enjoy his companionship. But our elephant is not on his own - he is part of a herd! Look up to your left before you round the last corner into Rooi Els. At the right time of day you will see a grand old chap keeping his eye on things.

Of course our rocks are full of statues frozen in eternity. They are slow life keeping us company and reminding us that they have been here much longer than we have and will continue to watch over Rooi Els after we have left..

RUTH MATTISON

"KLIP IS ONSMEEBAAR LEES EK

ONOPLOSBAAR

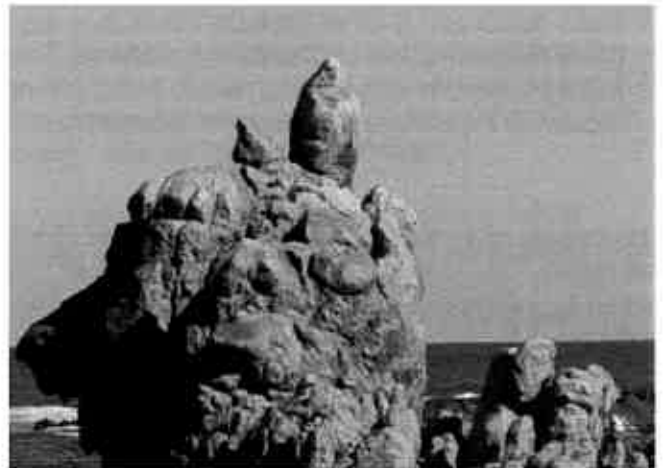
ONBEPaald

KLIP HET 'N ENKELE IDENTITEIT

GEE MY TAAL VIR KLIP PLEIT EK.."

-ANTJIE KROG

UIT: KLEUR KOM NOOIT ALLEEN NIE



IS DIT DALK 'N MEERMIN WAT MET HAAR RUG NA ONS UITTUUR OOR BAKKIESBAAI?

"The land retains an identity of its own, still deeper and more subtle than we can know. Our obligation toward it then becomes simple: to approach with an uncalculating mind, with an attitude of regard. To try to sense the range and variety of its expression - its weather and colors and animals. To intend from the beginning to preserve some of the mystery within it as a kind of wisdom to be experienced, not questioned. And to be alert for its openings, for that moment when something sacred reveals itself within the mundane, and you know the land knows you are there."

- BARRY LOPEZ

GETTING TO KNOW THE NIGHT SKY:

MOONSTRUCK

HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED THE MOON RISE OVER THE MOUNTAINS AT ROOI EL? IT IS STILL THE BREATHTAKING SIGHT IT HAS BEEN SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME - LARGELY THANKS TO THE FACT THAT WE HAVE LITTLE ARTIFICIAL LIGHT POLLUTION.

THE "SEAS" OF THE MOON

Even though only one face of the Moon is open to observation from the Earth, this face presents a wonderful array of features to delight the eye. Anyone who has not looked at the Moon with a telescope has no idea of the magnificent views and wealth of detail on its surface. Often even the experienced observer of lunar landscapes will find new landscapes under new lights or conditions. Even binoculars with 10 times magnifying power will show the large grey plains. But to do real justice to beauty of the Moon, one should use a telescope to reveal all the marvelous detail.

The large grey plains were known to the ancients as "maria" (Latin for seas). It is easy to understand why they were called seas, for aeons ago they seem to have been covered by water or perhaps by liquid lava.

In 1651 Giovanni Riccioli, an inspired Jesuit priest evocatively named these lunar seas. The original Latin names of the seas are still used professionally by astronomers more so than their English equivalents. There are in total about 30 grey areas which include the following large "seas":

- Mare Crisum (Sea of Crises)
- Mare Foecunditatis (Sea of Fecundity)
- Mare Nectaris (Sea of Nectar)
- Mare Tranquilitatis (Sea of Tranquillity)
- Mare Serenitatis (Sea of Serenity)
- Mare Frigoris (Sea of Cold)
- Mare Imbrium (Sea of Showers)
- Mare Vaporum (Sea of Vapours)
- Mare Nubium (Sea of Clouds)
- Mare Humorum (Sea of Humours)
- Oceanus Procellarum (Ocean of Storms)



The largest of these seas of the Moon is the Oceanus Procellarum which occupies the eastern regions of the moon. The seas are darker than the rest of the Moon and commonly coloured in shades of grey. The naked-eye view of the "Man in the Moon" is formed by these darker areas appearing against the lighter surface.

The second biggest is the Mare Imbium (Sea of Showers) which is a great elliptical plain 1 100 km long bounded on three sides by mountain ranges called the Carpathians, the lunar Alps. The eastern side opens into the Oceanus Procellarum.

One of the surprises found in the early days of lunar exploration is that the far side of the moon (not visible from the Earth) has no seas. This side consists entirely of heavily cratered highlands.

With telescopes some 30 000 craters are visible from the Earth ranging from 1 km to more than 100km across. Following a tradition established in the 17th century the most prominent craters are named after famous philosophers and scientists. Virtually all craters are the result of bombardment by meteorites. Many of the youngest craters are surrounded by light-coloured streaks called rays that were formed by violent ejection of material during impact. Rays emanating from the crater Copernicus, just south of Mare Imbrium are visible through a telescope.

DIE MAAN

Van al die hemelliggame is die Maan ons naaste buurman. Die Maan is pragtig om na te kyk, veral deur 'n verkyker of 'n teleskoop. Mens kan selfs die pieke van die berge op die maan sien (behalwe tydens donker- en volmaan). Kyk net waar die rand van die konvekse skadu in die donker verdwyn..

Die Maan wentel om die Aarde in 'n ampse sirkelgang. In ons eeu was die Maan die verste weg van die Aarde op 14 Maart 2002 (406 707 km) en op 14 November 2016 sal dit die naaste aan ons wees - slegs 356 509 km ver.

DIE SOGENAAMDE "MAAN ILLUSIE"

Het jy al opgelet hoe groot die maan lyk wanneer hy oor die horison opkom, in vergelyking met wanneer die maan hoog in die lug bo jou hang? Hierdie verskynsel staan bekend as die maan-illusie.

Daar is in werklikheid geen verskil in die grootte of afstand van die maan nie, maar ons sintuie lei ons om die bos. Wetenskaplikes wonder al oor eeue heen waarom ons die maan naby die horison as groter waarneem as wanneer hy hoog in die lug is.

Een teorie is dat as die maan naby die horison is, 'n mens se brein dit naby bekende landmerke of objekte sien, en dat jou brein die maan in verhouding met daardie bekende objekte plaas. Wetenskaplikes dink dat die opkomende of ondergaande maan op die horison deur 'n mens se brein as groter waargeneem word omdat dit voorkom asof dit 'n groter area tussen punte op die horison beslaan terwyl wanneer die maan hoog in die lug is, daar geen verwysingsraamwerk vir die brein is om die afstand daarvan te skat nie.



THE NEW MOON

"A slender crescent hanging in the evening sky, a sickle moon, is always a wonderful sight. Shakespeare called it a "silver bow, new-bent in heaven." Sometimes there is the faint hint of the ashen glow of earthlight, caused by sunlight reflecting from the Earth's oceans. There is something ageless about the crescent moon with its renewed promise of a new month to come. Long ago the first humans looked up at it with recognition and wonderment. We still do so today.

Once each month in its orbit around the Earth, the moon disappears and becomes what is called "new" when it lies between the Earth and the sun. For ancient peoples this was a time when the great unseen power of the moon made itself felt and when the cycle of heaven was renewed. The moon disappeared from the sky but was brought back to life after three days, a powerful image."

- DAVID WHITEHOUSE

One cannot see the birth of the new moon as the Moon during this phase is in the same part of the sky as the Sun. As time passes from the instant of the new moon, the angular separation between the Sun and Moon increases. Each day it moves 13 degrees further from the sun. The earliest a crescent moon has been seen with the unaided eye is 15 hours and 30 minutes; with binoculars 13 hours and 32 minutes and with a telescope 12 hours and 7 minutes. Viewing the moon so close to the sun is a great challenge and risk. Never sweep for it with binoculars or a telescope when the sun is in the sky - this can lead to blindness.

During the next 7 days we see a phase called Waxing Crescent Moon in which progressively more of the illuminated hemisphere is exposed to our view until it reaches First Quarter. The phase between Quarter and Full is called Waxing Gibbous Moon.

At Full Moon the shadowless moon takes on an entirely new appearance. When combined with the right atmospheric conditions, it can create some interesting optical effects, such as the ghostly lunar rainbow or a moonbow whose colours are less intense but no less impressive than a daytime rainbow.

The moon has accompanied us since the dawn of time. Its ancient surface is a record of the solar system's life, a chronicle long since obliterated from the face of the Earth.

SOURCES:

THE MOON: A BIOGRAPHY BY DAVID WHITEHOUSE
STARS OF THE SOUTHERN SKIES EDITED BY MARY FITZGERALD

"LOVE IS LIKE THE MOON, WHEN IT DOES NOT INCREASE, IT DECREASES."

THE KOGELBERG, MOUNTAINS OF THE MARSH ROSE

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT A SPECIAL BOOK

Most of us live or holiday in the biosphere, but how much do we really know about the Kogelberg? The core of the biosphere, after which it gets its name? Probably not too much, and what we do know, we know from the outside looking in.

Now that is about to change. Gerald McCann a man who spent seven years of his life living in the Kogelberg, and is well known to many in our area - has written a book on the Kogelberg. He has called it, "*The Kogelberg, Mountains of the Marsh Rose*," and, as the title indicates, the legendary Marsh Rose features prominently in his story. Gerald was the Forester and Mountain Conservation Officer in charge of the Kogelberg from 1970 to 1976. These were crucial years, when the Marsh Rose was threatened with extinction and very little was known about the role of fire in the fynbos. Now Gerald invites us to join him and see the Kogelberg through the eyes of one who was there during those crucial years, and view the Kogelberg from the inside out. His book will be well illustrated with his own photographs from that era.



Gerald will have to publish his book privately, with an initial print of 500 copies. Printing costs are exorbitant, and so he is appealing to folk with a passion for the area to contribute to the publication costs by way of a sponsorship-subscription of R300 each. This will help reduce the per-copy cost, hopefully to below R100. Subscribers will receive a Limited Edition numbered and signed copy of the book, together with acknowledgement of their subscription, and will also be entitled to buy further copies for friends at the cost price to subscribers. Should you be interested in subscribing towards the book, you may contact Gerald directly by e-mail, at geraldmc@telkomsa.net, or by phone at 028-2849179.

OM TE BROEI OF NIE TE BROEI NIE?

DIS DIE VRAAG VIR ONS ARENDE

Toe ons witkruis-arend (deesdae Verreaux- se- arend) op 7 Julie parend gesien is naby die nes, 'n goeie twee maande "laat", het ons dit toegeskryf aan die vreemde weer. 'n Week later is waargeneem dat die wyfie in die nes (die ouer nes van die twee neste) verdwyn en nie uitkom nie.

Eers teen die 28ste Julie is daar weer iets te siene as die een voël op die tandrots sit, naby die nes. En dan verdwyn agter die kop in. By die skrywe is daar dae lank geen teken van die voëls nie. Maar dis gure weer, en hulle kan weer baie suutjies beweeg daardie oomblik wat hulle nié dop gehou word nie, wie weet.

Paring sonder dat bevrugting plaas gevind het, is wel aangeteken. Paring is ook opgemerk nadat eiers gelê is of eiers uitgebroei is. Gewoonlik word die gedrag toegeskryf aan versteuring, maar dit is te betwyfel of dit in ons arende die geval is.

Miskien moet ons maar wag tot ons dalk verras gaan word teen 21 Augustus, rofweg 45 dae nadat die eerste eier gelê is. Dis nou as die eier op die dag van paring gelê is. Dit beteken ook dat die arende 'n afhanklike kuiken gaan hê van Desember tot Maart. As daar 'n kuiken is...

LOUISE DU TOIT



NO BIRD SOARS TOO HIGH IF HE SOARS WITH HIS OWN WINGS.
-WILLIAM BLAKE

BIRD CHAT

"Now is the winter of our discontent" - so says Richard III in Shakespeare's play, and how have we bemoaned the lack of rain! Quite rightly too, we needed rain with the dams far too low, the implementation of water restrictions in a Cape winter and the parched, baked soils of the Overberg and Swartland in July - for goodness sake! Yet in our hearts we knew that the wicked witch from the Northwest would cast her cloak over our soporific Indian summer and together with her henchmen of cold and gloom would sharply remind us that we are but mortals dependent on Nature's gifts. These are the days of log fires, glühwein, soetes, hearty fare, spectacular clouds, crimson sunsets and whales in the Bay.

These are also the days of Nature's cruellest turns - sudden changes of weather play havoc with birds. The same is true of sudden habitat changes. The January fire on the smallholdings reduced the fynbos to dust and boulder-strewn 'desert'. Yes, the rains and showers over the months in between has rendered the area a little greener but it will be years before it will provide a suitable habitat again for the numerous orange-breasted sunbirds and Cape sugarbirds that had always nested there. Both of these species are dependent on specific MATURE proteas and fynbos. They are notable now in new areas of Rooi Els where there are a few stands of required habitat, but alas they are not sufficient to support the previous numbers of pairs.

It is held in botanical circles that 'regular' burns are necessary to promote regeneration and in historical times when such burns were natural, i.e. lightning strikes, this is true. However the destruction caused by fires nowadays (many of which are not natural e.g. cigarette butts, bottles, glass shards, rubbish etc.) is greater because of their frequency and there is often no back-up of mature areas to provide stop gaps.



ORANGE-BREASTED SUNBIRD

Winter is the time that garden birds are especially grateful for food handouts. However, in Rooi Els we are handicapped by the permanent baboon presence. By feeding 'our' birds at first light when they queue up for such items and NOT leaving food outside willy-nilly, we have found a happy medium. (However, there are those who say one shouldn't feed any wild creatures and there is merit in that argument too.) Curiously, at this time of year robins and bulbuls take cheese. At no other time have we known them to do so. To the best of our knowledge there is no scientific data available as to why this should be the case, perhaps the fat and calcium content somehow supplements their diet prior to breeding. It is also a lean period for insects and would provide protein. Whatever the reason, it is most pleasant to start the day with a serenade of robin and bulbul song - singing for their breakfast!

Both robins and bulbuls are looking especially fine and bright. Unlike the yellow-rumped widow males that change colour when breeding, they look the same but somehow smarter and very vocal. Many birds become more vocal at breeding time - usually perched on a prominent point. The striking male widows in full breeding plumage, spend the rest of the year in a striped drab suit. The first area to go black is around the neck followed by the tail and subsequently the wings, the yellow areas then appear more prominent.

Other birds to look out for breeding are the small but noisy prinias and the lesser double-collared sunbirds. The latter are occasionally parasitized by Klaas's cuckoo - indeed last year we saw a pair of sunbirds run ragged by a juvenile cuckoo in our garden!

One new addition to our bird list this month has been a black-crowned night heron (R77). It was a juvenile bird flying from the lagoon area towards the Point. The lagoon provides a perfect habitat for this bird as well as supplying most of its food needs.

As winter has now finally arrived, dust off the telescopes and cast your eyes seaward. The first flushes of bad weather brings petrels and albatross into the Bay to join our local birds in the hunt for food.

A last observation to add is that of a black eagle, probably the female, taking a small gull off the front of the house and making back to the mountain with it. We were alerted to this by the consternation of the gulls. Watch the nest area as this behaviour may suggest the presence of a chick!

ALISON AYRE

LIFE AFTER DEATH IN FYNBOS

THE STORY OF FIRE AND SEEDS

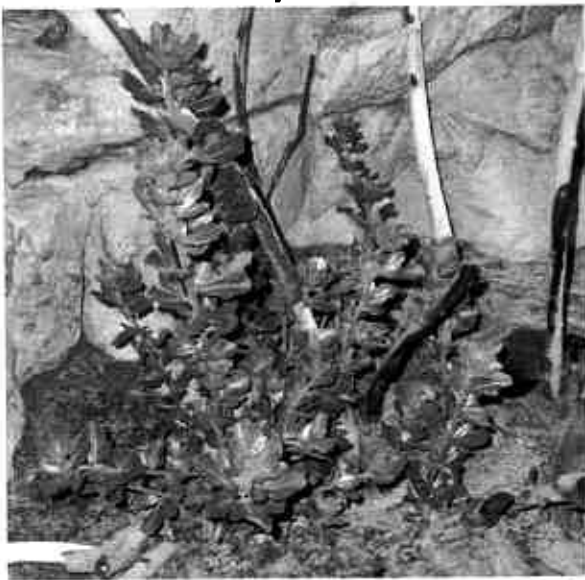
WHAT HAPPENS TO FYNBOS AFTER FIRE?

IN THE WESTERN CAPE AREA FIRES HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE FIVE MILLION YEARS AGO, WITH AN INCREASE IN FREQUENCY OVER THE LAST ONE MILLION YEARS. THEY ARE STARTED BY LIGHTNING, ROCK FALLS AND OF COURSE BY HUMANS.

Fynbos has evolved as a distinct vegetation type over the last five million years. It evolved in response to environmental factors such as summer drought, nutrient poverty of the soil and in particular to fire: there was strong natural selection for plants that had successful fire-survival strategies. Plants that could not survive recurrent fires quickly became extinct. Thus today we have our valued and unique fynbos: rich with species that have an intriguing variety of fire survival strategies.

First, there is the 'sprouting' strategy whereby plants have insulating mechanisms that enable them to survive fire. Many fynbos species have sturdy, fire-resistant rootstocks. In this group are species such as the common sunshine cone bush (*Leucadendron salignum*), the king protea (*Protea cynaroides*) and many reeds (*Restionaceae*) and sedges. A slightly different strategy is found in the 'Wa-boom' (*Protea nitida*) which has thick bark that insulates buds in the stem from fire damage. Sprouting plants soon grow fresh shoots from their undamaged roots or stems.

Plants with underground bulbs or tubers also survive fires. These geophytes (earth plants) flower profusely after fire, often providing wonderful displays. Flowers of bulbous plants are not so evident in later years.



RHUS RESPROUTING AFTER ROOI ELS FIRE



However, many fynbos plants do not survive fire. Such species rely on their seeds the next generation to continue the line. Plants with this 'seeding' strategy form a fascinating group, comprising a variety of schemes to ensure that the seeds are not consumed in the fire, and also to link their germination to the wet winter season after fire.

One such strategy is to store the seeds in sturdy, fire-resistant cones or cone-like structures. Each year's crop of cones (and their seed inside) is retained on the plant, resulting in the plant 'banking' up several years of successive seed crops. Such stores of seed can be quite large. A mature dune conebush (*Leucadendron coniferum*) accumulates up to 20 000 seeds! This strategy is called 'serotiny' and is found in all *Protea* species, many *Leucodendron* species and a few *Erica* and *Bruniaceae* species. During a fire these serotinous plants die. The cones dry out, open up and their seeds fall onto a bed of ash-enriched soil. These seeds germinate when temperatures at night drop below 10 degrees centigrade, perfectly cued for the wet winter season. However, a drawback is that seeds lie exposed on the barren, post-fire landscape, presenting a nutritious meal for small hungry mammals. Clearly the shorter the period of exposure before the winter germination period, the more seeds survive. Hence a fire in the late summer to early autumn leads to greater numbers of surviving seedlings than a fire in spring.

LIFE AFTER DEATH..

(CONTINUED)

UNDERSTANDING THE BEHAVIOUR OF FYNBOS PLANTS AND THEIR SEEDS HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND HOW FYNBOS WILL RECOVER AFTER FIRE. NO TWO FIRES ARE ALIKE. THEY DIFFER IN SIZE, INTENSITY, TIME SINCE PREVIOUS FIRE AND SEASON OF BURN. THUS THE ABUNDANCE AND MIX OF SPECIES AFTER EACH FIRE WILL VARY ACCORDINGLY.

Many seeding fynbos species do not accumulate seed banks in cones, instead ripe seeds are released each year during autumn. This category includes a wide diversity of fynbos species that have developed an extraordinary collaboration with ants. This strategy is found in all pincushions (*Leucospermum*) and many reeds and buchu species.

Seeds of these species have a fleshy appendage or an oily covering (an elaiosome) which attracts ants that drag the seeds down to their underground nests. Here they eat the elaiosome and leave the seeds buried, safely cached away and insulated from the fire's heat - waiting for the conditions that will stimulate germination. These seeds are cued to germinate only after fire.

The fire's heat begins the process by cracking the thick seed coat thus allowing water to enter. Actual germination occurs in winter when the altered temperatures of the fire-cleared soil provide the cue. The soil surface now lacks the insulation and shading provided by vegetation, and at night it becomes colder and during the day it gets hotter than before the fire. These enhanced temperature oscillations are the cue for germination.

The reliance of so many fynbos species on their seeds to survive brings up an important issue. On average, fynbos areas burn at intervals of about twelve to fifteen years. This interval is long enough for most species to reach reproductive maturity in order to establish adequate seed stores before the next fire. However, if fires are too frequent, then plants may not accumulate enough seeds between fires. Further, if fires have burnt large areas, there is small chance of seeds from unburned, neighbouring areas helping out, since most fynbos seeds are not dispersed long-range. Consequently there will be few seedlings to replace the fire-killed adult plants. In this manner slow-maturing species become locally extinct.

On the other end of the scale, if fire intervals are too long, many fynbos species senesce and decrease their reproductive output. This is especially relevant in high rainfall areas where the vegetation forms dense stands and compete for limited nutrients in the soil. Thus fire is needed to 'rejuvenate' the fynbos: nutrients locked up in ageing plants are released back to the environment and a new generation of seedlings begins another cycle.

PENNY MUSTART

(EXTRACT FROM ARTICLE IN VELD & FLORA, JUNE 2000, REPRODUCED WITH THE KIND PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR)



PENNY MUSTART IS AN ECOLOGIST WHO DID HER PH.D ON SEED ECOLOGY OF AGULHAS PROTEACEAE. SHE IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN A PROGRAMME TO RESTORE THE THREATENED CEDERBERG ENDEMIC CEDAR BY PLANTING OUT NURSERY-GROWN SEEDLINGS INTO ITS NATIVE HABITAT.

TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET LEARNED THE SECRET OF TRUE HAPPINESS,
BEGIN NOW TO STUDY THE LITTLE THINGS IN YOUR OWN DOOR YARD

-GEORGE WAHINGTO N CARVER (1864-1943) AMERICAN BOTANIST

THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF & THE LONELY GOATHERD

OR IS IT THE GOATS THAT ARE LONELY? THE SAGA CONTINUES..

The sound that disturbed the quiet of my Rooi Els Sunday afternoon was strange - in fact very strange. Investigation soon revealed that it emanated from three small black and white goats (the same ones reported on in a previous edition of the Breeze), that were bleating merrily as they approached the steps that led up to my front stoep.

Having ascended the stoep and porch, they decided that there was little of interest and they proceeded around the house to my front door. That door being firmly closed on them was not to the liking of the leader of the trio, which promptly reared up on his hind legs and with pronounced determination knocked on the door with both front hoofs! Some shouting and a great deal of waving of arms was necessary to induce the band to move away from my front door.

By that time a neighbour, curious to find out what was going on, had appeared on the scene and was soon challenged to a boxing match by the goat leader who was once again up on his hind legs. Discretion caused that neighbour not to accept the challenge

This fraternization with their neighbours then palled for the goat trio and they headed towards Pringle Bay in a leisurely fashion, pausing to sample the greenery on their way back.

MICHAEL HARRISON



BEZOEK VANUIT NEDERLAND

"KINDEREN DOEN WAAR HUN OUDERS VAN DROMEN"

Mijn vader zat winteravonden voor het open zolderraam met een zelfgemaakte kijker om een kaart te maken van het zevengesternte, dat hij ook wel "speldenkussen" noemde. Toen hij klaar was had hij zevenenvijftig sterren op millimeterpapier ingetekend. In die tijd vertelde pa mij ook over het Zuiderkruis, een sterrenbeeld dat voor hem een magische klank had.

Drie jaar geleden maakte ik een grote wandeltocht in Spanje. Als begin van mijn wandeltocht liep ik de oude pelgrimspad en ontmoette in de refugio van Puente la Reina twee Zuid Afrikaanse vriendinnen. De volgende twee weken aten we dagelijks met elkaar.

In die tijd woonde mijn vader vlak achter de dijk van de Waddenzee, een door eilanden omgeven deel van de Noordzee. Hij schreef daar stukjes in de dorpskrant over het kijken naar sterren.

Sinds drie weken zie ik het Zuiderkruis regelmatig. De uitnodiging om Zuid Afrika te bezoeken heb ik kunnen verwezenlijken, en vanmorgen heb ik "morning-tea" gedronken met uitzicht op een walvis die met haar jong aan het spelen was in de baai voor het huis waar ik te gast ben in Rooiels.

Mijn vader werkte in de waterbouw, hield van stoommachines en reisde graag met een (sterren)kaart zittend in zijn stoel. Zoals zo dikwijls kunnen kinderen doen waar hun ouders van dromen. Hier in Rooiels was het voor mij - behalve een weerzien met een vriendin - ook een herontmoeting met de lig van my pa.

Daar es geniet en sielepyn / maar in die land van bossie fyn
es nie een traan nie, soos Antjie sê - kleur kom nooit alleen nie.

LOUIS WAGENER VANUIT ARNHEM, NEDERLAND OP BEZOEK 8 AUGUSTUS 2004.

INSIG IN HELENA SCHEFFLER

'N UITTREKSEL UIT DIE ARTIKEL DEUR DINE VAN ZYL WAT IN 'N ONLANGSE UITGAWE VAN INSIG VERSKYN HET

Die strandhuis is op pilare gebou en as mens aan die bopunt van die trap staan, kyk jy terug oor die grondpad, die fynbos, die ander huise wat knus tussen die rotse en steenbokboegoe verdwyn, en dan oor Valsbaai, met Kaappunt op die horison. Niks is toevallig nie, want dit is deur 'n vrou met 'n passie vir die see ontwerp, iemand vir wie die Kaap van Goeie Hoop 'n besondere betekenis het.

Ek het haar op Rooi-Els se strand ontmoet. Sy het 'n optelstok in die een hand gehad, en 'n visnet in die ander. Sy was besig om rommel wat uitgespoel het, te versamel en in die visnet na die vullisdrom te dra. "Ek het eers 'n plastieksak gebruik, maar dit is ongemaklik in die wind," het sy gesê. "Toe gee die see vir my die visnet." Dit het tussen die rotse uitgespoel.

Sy is dr. Helena Scheffler. Sy het nie gesê sy is 'n kultuurhistorikus nie. Sy het nie gesê sy is die adviseur wat Dan Sleigh se *Eilande* twee keer deurgewerk het nie, sy het nie vertel sy is die een wat die geskiedenis van Muratie-landgoed, Fredericksburg en La Motte nagevors het nie. Sy het nie vertel dat sy leerling-matros op 'n replika van die seilskip *Bounty* was nie - dit het ek alles eers later stuksgewys ontdek. Sy het eerder geduldig geluister na my gebabbel oor die geskiedenis van die Hangklip-gebied, en toe gegrawe in haar heupsak, en 'n nota gemaak.

Helena het voorheen ook vir Dalene Matthee met die skryf van *Pieterella van die Kaap* kultuurhistories bygestaan, en die maritieme navorsing vir die TV-dokumentêr oor die VOC se 400ste bestaan gedoen.

Kleintyd het sy vakansies tussen die duine by Vleesbaai rondgehardloop, en op die rotse tussen die getypoele verklaar. "Ek is *Kaptein Wraaklus!*" Met haar broers as manskappe is die bure se lukwarte geplunder. En toe sy 'n poppekas bou en konserte begin hou, is die heldin altyd deur 'n seerower gered. Kaptein Wraaklus was erg bloeddorstig, maar het darem 'n sawwe hart gehad.

Sy het gedroom van 'n strandhuis van haar eie. Dit moet op pale wees soos 'n kaai, nes die ou huise van Stilbaai. En daar moet 'n stoep reg rondom wees. Toe gaan studeer sy, en kry nuwe idees, veral op die eiland Nantucket, Massachusetts. Nantucket was die wêreldsentrum van walvisvaart (1672-1830). Dis hier waar die storie van Moby Dick sy oorsprong het. Talle seekapteinshuise, sowel as die ou dorpskern het behoue gebly.



Helena se strandhuis op Rooi-Els is haar siel en toon haar ervaringswêreld vanaf die VOC-skepe tot memento's van haar eie reise op seilskepe. Sy het die strandhuis ontwerp sodat sy Kaappunt kan sien elke keer as sy by die deur uitstap. "Kaap van Storms, of Kaap die Goeie Hoop is een van die groot kape. Tafelbaai was destyds een van die bekendste aandoen plekke, en uiters gewild onder die seemanne van oral oor. Hier kon hulle dikwels tot ses weke lank rus, eet, dobbel en drink en hier was vroumense!"

Sy loer deur die patryspoort. 'n Bank wolke kruip oor die see na Kaappunt. "Kaap van Storms is 'n mitiese plek," sê sy. "Daar gaan iets aan - daar is 'n teenwoordigheid. Ek het al twee maal om die Punt gevaar. Beide kere het iets eienaardig gebeur." Sy was op die HM Bark *Endeavour*, 'n replika van Kaptein James Cook se seilskip, en onderweg van Algoabaai na Tafelbaai. "Dit was die pragtigste dag. Die see was soos 'n spieël. En toe het daar skielik asof uit die niet 'n wilde storm losgebars. Die lug was meteens grou, swanger; die wind het in die tuigasie geloei, die seile het geklap, die romp het aaklig gekreun, die maste het gekraak en branders so groot soos berge het oor die dek gebreek. Die bevel van die kaptein was skaars hoorbaar bo die lawaai. Nie lank na ons uit die omgewing is nie, was alles weer skielik normaal, weer 'n idilliese dag."

VERVOLG OP BL 22

INSIG IN HELENA (VERVOLG)

Die tweede keer was ek aan boord van 'n reuse vragskip. Rondom Kaappunt was dit dieselfde storie." Sy kyk na die water wat nou plat en verleidelik lê. "Daar is definitief iets daar. Dalk die gees van die mitiese Adamastor wat in die rots vasgevang is?"

"Die eerste keer toe ek Europa toe is, het ek besluit 'n vliegtuig is uit. Ek het met die skip gegaan. Ek wou ook nie Southampton toe nie, maar na die plek waar die eerste skepe vandaan gekom het wat hier om die Kaap van Storms of Goeie Hoop gevaar het - dit was die Tagus, vanaf Belém. Ek wou die onmeetlikheid van die oseaan ervaar. Ek wou dit sien."

Die vaart het vir haar hopeloos te kort geduur twaalf dae pleks van die vier maande van die seilskepe. "As jy wegseil, kyk jy op. Bokant jou is die bekende. Die sterre waarmee jy grootgeword het, die Suiderkruis. En soos jy wegtrek van die land af, is daar seevoëls. Later sien jy nie meer voëls nie, maar vlieënde visse. Dit word geleidelik warmer en bedompiger totdat jy die ewenaar oorsteek - daardie denkbeeldige en magiese lyn. En dis hier waar nuwelinge van die VOC die allerverskriklikste doopseremonies ondergaan het as hulle die eerste keer oor die ewenaar gaan."

Daar is 'n breë veranda driekwart om haar huis, en vanuit haar badkamer kan sy die see uit drie vensters sien: Valsbaai, Kaappunt, Masbaai. Toe die bad geïnstalleer is, het werkers stilswyend kopgekrap, want Helena wou die bad gelig hê, en sy was verbete. Kaptein Wraaklus het gespreek. Van die handdoekrelings is roeispane. Nou lê sy snags in die water en kyk na die sterre, en die vuurtoring vanaf Kaappunt flits oor haar. Soms weerkaats die lig van Hangklip se vuurtoring teen die lae wolke, en kry sy die flitse vanaf twee rigtings.

Ons sit onder ou seekaarte en prente van skeepsvaarders. Daar is 'n versameling ou breekgoed in 'n "vliegenkas" of sifkas, soos ons dit hier ter lande ken, en in die kombuis is Nelson se bekende aanhaling voor die Slag van Travalgar: *Every man must do his duty.*

Mens wonder of Helena in die verlede of in die hede leef. En dan besef jy sy is 'n begaafde mens wat oor 'n tydspan van eeue leef, maar alles gelyk raaksien. En soms ontvlug sy na haar huis op pale by die see, waar die vuurtoring van die Kaap van Goeie Hoop op haar skyn. Nou die sterre, dan die lig.



HELENA IS MET COBUS KRIEL, 'N INGENIEUR, GETROUD

ALMAL OOR WIE HELENA NAVORSING DOEN, HET MET 'N SKIP NA SUID-AFRIKA GEKOM.

Daar was nie 'n ander manier nie. "Dit het omtrent vier maande geduur, en dis die rede waarom daar soveel skeepsterne in ons taalgebruik is," vertel Helena. Dink maar aan *vaarwel*, (*vaar uw wel*), *oorboord gooi*, *die mas opkom*, *kajuitraad hou*, *van bakboord na stuurboord stuur*, *seile na die wind span of draai*, *grootskeeps* en *die wind van voor kry*, of *dit gaan voor die wind*. As 'n ander skip tussen jou en die wind kom, veral in seeslae, praat mens van die *loef afsteek*.

Kooi is 'n skeepslaapplek, en *kombuis* is die Nederlandse woord vir 'n kookkamer op 'n vaartuig. 'n *Kombuis* in 'n huis soos ons dit ken, heet *keuken* in Nederlands. Ander woorde wat ons van skeepsterne kry, is *hoog en droog* (die skip is in onbruik), *afskoop* (om ontslae te raak van vrag, dis nie meer belangrik nie, om dit opsy te skuif), *oor ander boeg gooi* (van koers verander), *van stapel stuur* ('n Vaartuig se romp word aan land op 'n hout stellasië gebou.) Wanneer dit klaar is, word dit van stapel gestuur en te water gelaat sodat die maste, ra's en tuigasie opgesit kan word.

Of ons paai iemand. As jy 'n skip regmaak, kantel jy dit, jy druk sisal tussen die planke in. Dan moker jy dit met 'n *moker* - dis waar die woord vandaan kom en daarna vat jy teer en *paai* die skip - jy bestryk die romp met lang horisontale hale.

DINE VAN ZYL

WOORDE IN DIE WIND MELANIE GROBLER

DAAR'S WEER WOORDE IN DIE WIND MET MELANIE & EUGENIE GROBLER OP 28 AUGUSTUS 2004 OM 7NM BY WONDERLINGS (JENNY STARK & KOOS SMIT SE HUIS)

Melanie het die Rapportprys gewen vir haar eerste bundel, DIE TYE EN SWYE IN DIE LEWE VAN HESTER H. Haar tweede bundel poësie, DIE WATERBREKER, verskyn nou binnekort. André Brink praat met groot lof oor haar gedigte en het van hulle in die nuwe Groot Verseboek ingesluit. Haar kortverhale is gepubliseer in verskeie bundels. Sy werk tans aan 'n roman. Sy het haar doktersgraad oor Breyten Breytenbach se skilderkuns gedoen.

Melanie se dogter, Eugenie Grobler, het van die gedigte getoonset en sal enkeles kom sing by die geleentheid. In Oktober gee sy 'n uitvoering daarvan, saam met 'n tjellis en vioolspeler, by die Dorpstraat teater op Stellenbosch. Eugenie is 'n uitstekende sangeres wat kabaret doen en verskeie CDs agter haar naam het. Sy doen ook musiekterapie en is nou na New York uitgenooi. Sy en Pedro Kruger was deel van Breyten se doekboeke opvoering, Lappaseit (skilderye met gedigte daarop). Hulle het dit getoonset en dis beskikbaar op CD.



MELANIE GROBLER

'n Bepaalde aantal plekke is beskikbaar. Bespreek asb per e-pos of telefonies by Evette Weyers
Tel 028-2738483

EN IN OKTOBER GAAN ONS 'N INGRID JONKER-AAND HÊ MET PETROVNA
METTLERKAMP

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK



A warm welcome to Andrew and Caren Kelly who bought the Donker's house. They are from Johannesburg and have three children; Daniel (four), Claire (two and a half) and Bronwyn (9 months). Andrew is an Electronic Engineer and Caren is a Psychiatrist.

As a 12 year old school girl Caren wrote an essay on "My favourite beauty spot" and won the Sons of England Competition. "I now realize that the place that I described then was Rooi Els!" she laughs.

NUUTSTE ROOI ELSER..

WELKOM EMILE!

'N NUWE KLEINDING IS OP 6 JULIE VIR BO EN GINA DUVENHAGE GEBORE. SY NAAM IS EMILE, 'N LEKKER SPEELMAAT VIR OUER BOETIE NICHOLAS, WAT NOU AL LAND EN SAND PRAAT.



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IN HIERDIE VREDE EN RUS,
VERLOOR DIE WERELD LANGSAAM SY GEWIG,
WORD ALLES IN MY HELDER, STRAAL OOK IN MY DIE LIG,
KRY EINDELIG DIE LEWE WEER EENHEID EN MAAT EN EWEWIG

- UYS KRIGE



UNITED BY OUR PASSION FOR THE NATURAL SPLENDOUR OF ROOI-ELS,
WE PLEDGE THAT HERE,
NATURE WILL BE NURTURED,
FLORA, FAUNA AND MARINE LIFE PROTECTED,
OUR EVERY IMPACT ON THE AREA LIMITED
OUR CUSTODIANSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT RESPECTED
OUR COMMUNITY SPIRIT STRENGTHENED
SO THAT OUR LIVES, AND THOSE OF GENERATIONS TO COME,
WILL CONTINUE TO BE ENRICHED BY OUR CARE