
Christmas¹⁹⁹⁸/Kersstees

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Rooiels
Belastingbetalersvereniging
(REBV)
Rooiels Ratepayers
Association (RERA)
Postbus/PO Box 89 Betty's
Bay 7141

Redaksioneel/Editorial

Somer, son, swem en braaivleis. Suidoostewinde, kreef, wyn en vriende. Dit is wat vir almal hierdie feesseisoen hier op Rooiels wag. En nog baie meer:

RERA het 'n indrukwekkende vakansieprogram vir oud en jonk saamgestel waarin daar iets vir almal is. Verlede jaar se program was so suksesvol dat ons dit vanjaar probeer uitbrei om 'n groter verskeidenheid te bied.

The new pathways through the Rooiels Nature Reserve are almost completed – after almost a year of trying to get off the ground. A couple of weeks ago when Craig Spencer and J started marking the paths, we suddenly found ourselves in the middle of a stand of one of the wild orchids, the *Pterygodium catholicum*. And right there we had adapt our plans which had looked good on paper! We appeal to all to use the paths and not to deviate from them. Please visit the reserve – and in the process, keep the pathways well-trodden.

Let asseblief daarop dat die AJV vanjaar nie op die tradisionele Saterdag tussen Kersfees en Nuwejaar val nie, maar wel op Dinsdag, 29 November. Hou ook die kennisgewingsborde dop vir meer besonderhede.

Recently we took leave of two Rooielsers, viz. Felicity Scott who had a holiday home here for 37 years and Marge Williams who lived here

permanently for 19 years. We wish both of them everything of the best.

Ons het die afgelope tyd twee van ons oud-inwoners verloor, nl, Felicity Scott wat vir 37 jaar 'n huis hier gehad het en Marge Williams wat 19 jaar hier gewoon het. Ons wens hulle alles van die beste toe.

Ek het onlangs die voorreg beleef om per kano na die wilde perde op die Botrivierleiland te gaan kyk en daarna per voertuig die lengte van die Palmietrivier, vanaf Highlands naby Grabouw tot by die monding naby Kleinmond, saam met Craig Spencer te beleef. Ek het net weer besef hoe bevoorreg ons is om hier te woon. Elders in die uitgawe word 'n opsomming geplaas van opwindende dinge wat u die vakansie in ons omgewing kan doen.

Everyone is waiting anxiously for UNESCO's announcement in December concerning the declaration of our area as a biosphere reserve. Rooiels will form part of that reserve in the form of a transition zone. If this were to happen, it would have ramified implications for the region. Recently I attended a meeting of the Kogelberg sub-committee and was impressed by the co-operation of the community which supports this application wholeheartedly.

Ek deel graag nog een van die wonderwerke van hierdie plek: die ander nag het ek na 'n reënboog in die volmaan hier teen middernag op my stoep gesit en kyk en sien toe 'n silwer reenboog oor die skiereiland hang!

Nou gesels ek te veel.

Geseënde Kersfees en net mooi en lekker dinge vir 1999.

Groete

Gerard Scholtz

Redakteur/ Editor

Light Pollution

"Surrounded by nature's beauty, often I sit for hours, while my senses feast upon the spectacles of nature. Here the majestic sun is not concealed ... here the blue sky is my sublime roof. When in the evening I contemplate the sky in wonder and the host of luminous bodies continually revolving within the orbits, suns or earths by name, then my spirit rises beyond these constellations so many millions of miles away."

Ludwig von Beethoven

Here in Rooiels it IS still possible to enjoy the splendour of the night sky, unimpeded, Beethoven knew a thing or two about aesthetics.

(Please avoid light pollution and see a silver rainbow at midnight)

KOGELBERG COASTAL PARK

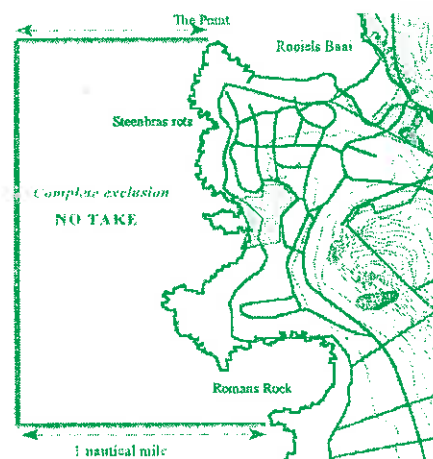
The Concept: This proposed park will form part of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. It will stretch from the Rooiels River mouth to the Bot River mouth and extend for about one nautical mile starting from the low water mark. Within the park various areas will be zoned

for different uses, e.g. marine conservation, fishing, etc.

The Department of Sea Fisheries proposes that from the Rooiels point to Roman Rock be closed to all forms of exploitation for a distance of one nautical mile. Research has shown that ring nets are having a serious impact on rare corals and the inter-tidal zone at Rooiels has been severely depleted over the years.

This proposal would imply that the members of the boat club would still be able to launch and land their boats at the slipway. From the slipway they would then have to keep to the Gordon's Bay side of the bay or round the point to beyond Roman Rock for their catches.

This proposal will be finalised by the end of 1999. Input can be posted to: Nature Conservation Division, P O Box X3, Kleinmond, 7195.



Biosphere Reserve

A biosphere reserve is proposed for the area between Gordon's Bay and the Bot River, including the Kogelberg Nature Reserve and the associated marine environment. Rooiels will fall in the transition

zone and the Rooiels Nature Reserve will possibly link the core area with the marine environment as a buffer zone.

The advantages of a biosphere reserve are as follows:

- ◆ Aims to link conservation and development
- ◆ Contribute to the welfare of our region through wise use of natural resources and increased tourism
- ◆ Provide protected core areas as secure sites for monitoring environmental change
- ◆ Provide opportunities for nature-orientated outdoor recreation and environmental education
- ◆ Provide a framework within which current legislation and structure plans can be used for improved planning, development and conservation of a region
- ◆ Allow local communities and authorities to become stakeholders in the development and conservation of the areas in which they live and work

ROOIELS KAPGROEP

Hierdie was darem 'n snaakse jaar! Verlede jaar het ons mooi volgens ons beplanning gewerk, maar hierdie jaar was vol verrassings en kreatiewe afwykings van die voorgestelde plan.

Sedert die laaste Bries het ons drie keer gekap en oral rond op Rooikrans toegeslaan. Ons het ook heelwat baie belangrike opvolgwerk gedoen. Die sleepbelling en ander gedeeltes wat verlede jaar skoongemaak is, het weer baie saailinge opgelewer en die kappers het skoongemaak. 'n Baie lekker projek was die skoonmaak van die openbare ruimte tussen die strand en die voorste erwe. Hierdie gebied was ietwat meer besoedel as wat ons aanvanklik gedink het. Baie van hierdie takke is teenaan

die rivier gepak sodat die natuur maar sy gang kan gaan. Dit sou te veel skade aan die duine gerig het om hulle te probeer uitsleep. Ons moet maar geduldig wag – hulle sal uiteindelik in die see beland of verbrokkel. Intussen keer hulle dat die duine verder vertrap word daar waar hulle lê.

Ons is ook dankbaar teenoor mnr. Terwever van erf 225 wat besluit het om sy rooikransbome te laat uitkap. Dit was een van die mees bevredigende take hierdie jaar. Die deel van die dorp waar hierdie bome gestaan het, is mooi skoon en die voortbestaan van selfs een boom kan besoedel.

Dié van u wat nog nooit gekap het nie sou verstom staan om te sien met hoeveel oorgawe en entoesiasme die kappers te werk gaan. Elke rooikrans wat vernwyder word, is 'n groot lekkerte. Soms verdink ek van hulle daarvan dat hulle van onderdrukte vraakgedagtes of frustrasies ontslae raak as hulle hul so verlustig in die vernietiging van dié pesplante. En dit is dan nog 'n voordeel van kap: kry dit alles uitgenvoed en kom mooi skoonkop anderkant uit!

Ons almal van Rooiels wil hierdie vrywilligers bedank vir die baie ure se swoeg en sweet hierdie jaar. Dit is julle belegging in die toekoms van hierdie godswonderlike plek. Dankie, ook, aan almal wat toebroodjies gemaak het deur die jaar.

Daar bly maar een kapdag vir 1998 oor: 5 Desember. Of u nou 'n gereelde kapper is of nie – kom kap saam en laat ons die jaar op 'n hoogtepunt afsluit.

Anuta Scholtz

Rooiels Boat Club

The summer season will have started by the time you read this and early indications are that as in previous years, all the members, with one or two exceptions, will have renewed their membership. This means we will have about 53 members of whom 10 are outside members who are not erf owners in Rooiels.

Every member's boat and boat trailer will have a REBC decal with a number printed on it, so that the identification of members and their boats is easy.

At various times during the year we have been very concerned to find people parking in front of the boom and leaving their car as a roadblock. In order to advise such people of the foolish and dangerous nature of this thoughtlessness, we have put a sticker on the boom making it clear that any sea rescue emergencies require the road to be clear at all times of the day and night, every day of the year. Please help us to keep the road clear by pointing this out to any miscreant you see leaving his car there.

The owners of Erf 58 on Lover's Walk have kindly allowed us to park boat trailers attached to vehicles on their erf while the boat is at sea, so as to reduce congestion on our roads. This is not a public parking place and we have advised members that if this becomes the case we will stop using the erf immediately.

We have encouraged members not to use it if possible, but also not to park on the narrow roads in the slipway area, so we will monitor the success of this experiment. If it is not working, we will close it down, but our hope is that it will prove to be a help, not a hindrance.

The Boat Club is again holding an Open Boat Day on Sunday 27th December 1998, for Rooiels residents, their families and friends. Last year many residents enjoyed a trip to sea and came away with some crayfish as well, so we again look forward to welcoming any "Rooieler" with a yen to go to sea.

Apart from assisting with the publication costs of the Rooiels Breeze, the Boat Club is donating money to the NSRI and is having a fishing competition for members, in which we will raise funds for Sea-watch. In addition to these donations, we have offered to contribute towards a bottle bank for Rooi Els through the good efforts of Elida Van Dyk, in an ongoing attempt to keep our village free of litter and to encourage sensible recycling practices.

May we take this opportunity of wishing you all a fair weather Christmas and some wonderful family get-togethers.

DIARMUID BAIGRIE

CHAIRMAN - ROOI ELS BOAT CLUB



AGM/AJV RERA/REBV

Tuesday 29 November

Dinsdag 29 November

Registrasie om: 8:00

Vergadering begin om 8:30

Erf 56

Bring membership fees of R40 along, as well as your own chair. Donations will be welcome!

Kom luister na wat alles die afgelope jaar hier gebeur het en beplan saam aan Rooiels se toekoms.

Rooiels Natuurreservaat Nature reserve

'n Privaat kontakteur is deur die munisipaliteit gekontrakteer om die beplande voetpaadjies in die natuur tuin uit te lê. By die drie ingange is daar benewens die toevoertrekkers ook kennisgewingsborde opgerig. Laasgenoemde is deur verskeie donateurs betaal. Twee sitbanke sal hopelik voor die vakansieseisoen opgerig word. Die banke sal geplaas word dat dit so min as moontlik impak op die omgewing sal hê.

Die paadjies is so ver as moontlik slegs oopgesny en u word aangemoedig om dit so veel as moontlik te gebruik om dit te vestig. Felix Faure het voorgestel dat u elke keer 'n klip saamneem as u daar gaan stap om die paadjies af te baken. Nogal nie 'n slegte idee nie.

'n boardwalk word vir die nat gedeeltes beplan sodat dit ook in die winter gebruik kan word.

At the Exco:

1. *Representation on the Aesthetics Committee*
2. *Building plans*
3. *Representation on Clarence Drive Committee*
4. *Municipal elections*
5. *Roads in Rooiels*
6. *Rooiels Nature Reserve*
7. *Rooiels Beach Conservation Sub-committee*
8. *Waste Management*
9. *Hacks*
10. *Conservation*
11. *Buildings/dogs/baboon problems*

Bird Chat

Last weekend we had the pleasure of seeing a flock of thirty something Greater Flamingoes (Grootflamink) glide across a sunset sky directly in front of the house. Their elegance and dazzling colour in such a setting was reminiscent of socialites *en route* to some fabulous ball. Dawn and dusk are great birding times in Rooiels, especially for sea birds. Long skeins of assorted Cormorants (Duikers), Terns (Sterretjies), Kelp Gulls (Swartrugmeeus) and Gannets (Witmalgas) create dramatic silhouettes on a spectacular stage. Enough of the romance – back to reality!

The nature reserve is making great progress. Birds are indeed establishing themselves on the seaward side of the reserve. We saw a Malachite Kingfisher (Malachitesvogel [sic] or Kuifkopvisvanger), a jewel of a bird infrequently seen because of its diminutive size. Rooiels has a habit of "throwing up" good sightings: a

breeding Pintailed Whydah (Koningrooibekkie) spent his lunch break in the garden as did a Cardinal Woodpecker (Kardinaalspeg), intent on having his own beach house, judging from his inspection of several trees. A single Common Quail (Afrikaanse Kwartel), a Guinea Fowl (Kuifkoptarentaal) and a pair of Whimbrels (Kleinwulps) also increased our count last month.

Other special sightings have been the pair of Black Eagles (Witkruisarend) involved in their courtship display and Cape Francolins (Kaapse Fisante) with their fast-growing broods. Look out for Cape Sugarbirds (Kaapse Suikervoëls) with their young – a common resident but no less special for that. In fact the Cape Bird Club (50 this year) magazine is named Promerops, the sugarbird's family name. Many species have nested and had mixed success with their broods. One unwelcome, but striking, species has been Klaas's Cuckoo (Meitjie) which, like all cuckoos, is a brood parasite and "specialises" in certain birds. The Raymonds reported a hassled female sunbird trying to keep pace with a juvenile's seemingly endless appetite. Our unflappable, but oft witless, Whitefronted Sandplovers (Vaalstrandkiewiets) have raised chicks in spite of everything. A pair of Egyptian Geese (Koligans) enjoyed Rooiels so much they raised their four goslings and took them on daily beach walks and on one occasion appeared to be teaching them the finer points of "hang ten"!

Feedback on the Bokmakieries indicates a preference for quieter areas in Rooiels. Sadly, we still have to report a total absence from our garden. The Rockjumpers (Berglysters) seem to have had a good breeding year and appear to be gaining in numbers in the smallholdings area and more adventurous in the village itself. The Oystercatchers (Swarttobies) are still happily feasting on mussels, etc, but we are unaware of a breeding record – any reader know more?

As summer approaches, so do the summer visitors. Look out for swifts (windswaels). We have five varieties here, but they are not the easiest birds to distinguish! Nor are the LBJ's (Little Brown Jobs) – too much sunbathing perhaps?

Happy festive birding to you all. Indeed your birding may be more diverse if you're as happy as a lark, chirpy as a chat, tight as a tit or high as a kite!!

Helen/Alison

SEA HORSE INN

WHERE WE CARE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

TRY OUR BREAKFASTS, HOME COOKED MEALS, SEA FOOD DISHES AND TAKE AWAYS

COME AND ENJOY A LEISURELY DRINK AT OUR NEW PUB

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR STAFF FOR THE HOLIDAYS

(028) 273 8395

MISDAAD IN ONS OMGEWING

Misdaad is die groot woord wat op byna elke Suid-Afrikaner se voorkop 'n diep frons kloof, en die goeie nuus vir mense hier in die Hangklip-Kleinmond gebied, is dat ons reeds lae misdaadsyfer verder aan die afneem is. As deel van die polisie se veldtog om misdaad verder hok te slaan, gaan die mag en belanghebbendes hierdie feesseisoen ook vakansiegangers teiken met wenke oor hoe om misdaad te voorkom.

Die grootste probleem in ons gebied bly stropery. In Oktober het die polisie op byna ses-duisend kreef beslag gelê. 'n Verdagte is wel in hegtenis geneem, maar mens wonder hoeveel misdadigers glip wel deur die net. Bewustheid en waaksaamheid onder die publiek kan net help om stropers vas te vat.

Tydens die November vergadering van die skakelforum tussen die Polisie en die gemeenskap, is daar benadruk dat wanneer die publiek 'n klagte het oor die polisie, hetsy oor die optrede van 'n spesifieke polisiebeampte, of oor aandag aan 'n saak, die publiek nie moet huiwer om so 'n kwessie by die polisie aan te meld nie.

Onder die inisiatief van die burgemeester, in 'n poging om hierdie 'n misdaadvrye gebied te maak, is die munisipaliteit tans besig met 'n ondersoek en navorsing oor die aanbring van beheerpunte by die twee ingange tot hierdie gebied. (Rooiels en Kleinmond, op die R43). Waarskynlik sal dit met videokameras toegerus word.

Eneth Kruger
Rooiels verteenwoordiger:
Polisieforum

(André Wagener het weens druk werksomstandighede van die Uitvoerende Komitee bedank. Ons wil hom graag bedank vir al die positiewe insette tydens sy betrokkenheid by die REBV. Intussen is Eneth Kruger in sy plek gekoopteer en sal dan Rooiels ook op die Polisieforum verteenwoordig. Eneth en Pierre is twee energieke jong mense wat hulle nou permanent hier gevestig het - in die wit B&B langs die teerpad.)



Geskiedenis van Rooiels History of Rooiels

After a year of listening to many stories, paging through piles of history books and sorting out myths, legends and truths about Rooiels and its people, the book on the history of Rooiels is ready to be printed and will be ready for the festive season.

This book, also available in Afrikaans, will be launched on Friday 18 December at 18:00 at the house of Tony and Griselda Hall, erf 218, Harveya Road. (Opposite the western entrance to the Rooiels Nature Reserve).

The book will be on sale for R20.00 and the proceeds will go towards nature conservation in our village. The book will also be available at the Sunset Craft Market and the Sea Horse Inn.

The artwork of Evette Weyers, our local sculptress, as well as work of other contemporary South African artists, will be exhibited at this function.

Please diarise this memorable occasion and we hope to see you there!

RSVP before 17 December
Gerard Scholtz (028) 273 8539

Rooiels Sunset Christmas Crafts & Art Route

After all the fun of last year, the 2nd Rooiels Sunset Craft Market will take place on 22 & 23 December. Watch the notice boards for more details. If you want to take part, phone Lida at 028 273 8444/ 083 302 5886.

AFVAL EN HERWINNING

Die REBV is tans besig met onderhandelinge vir die aankoop van herwinninghouers vir die insang tot die dorp. Daar word gepoog om houters vir glas en papier te bekom. As daar genoeg fondse is wil hulle ook 'n blykpers aankoop en die houters met 'n hout heining van die pad af skerm.

Die ideaal is om die houters, of dan net die glashouters, reeds voor die seisoen in plek te hê. Hulle sal aan die onderkant van Clarencerylaan geplaas word. Wanneer u Rooiels toe kom, kyk gerus of hulle daar is en GEBRUIK hulle, asseblief.

Tans word al Rooiels en Pringlebaai se vullis wessery en dit kos 'n aardige bedrag. As ons die volumes afval deur herwinning kan verminder, kan dit net tot ons voordeel wees.

SEAWATCH

SEAWATCH has expanded its activities a lot this year. We have had considerable success in catching poachers in the Betty's Bay area, where there has been an extensive onslaught on abalone (perlemoen), and we have had to attend several court cases.

Our members who patrol the dunes around the Betty's Bay reserve have identified 60 regular poachers. We measure the abandoned perlemoen shells and send the data to Sea Fisheries. We know that up to 7 000 perlemoen are poached from this reserve every month. The poachers come from as far away as Cape Town and Hermanus. About 20 of them are local residents.

SEAWATCH is in favour of local people taking control over their resources, regulating access to the resource, sustainable utilization and looking after the resource. As some of the local small scale poachers are basically subsistence fishers, SEAWATCH decided to meet with them and possibly get them legitimate permits so that they have a stake in the resource and a reason to protect it. These meetings were very fruitful. We involved

the traditional fisherfolk as well (who hadn't poached, despite being denied access) and have formed a committee called **KOGELBERG SEA COM** (co-management). We are going to employ a facilitator to help with planning fruitful co-management. There is considerable animosity between the fishers and the poachers, hence the need for a facilitator.

The poachers promised to stay out of the reserve and they have done so for the past three weeks. These poachers are willing to help us catch the big syndicate poachers. One of these well-organised syndicates poached at Rooiels two weekends in a row. They have a light-coloured rubberduck and lots of equipment. Three scuba divers strip the reefs of perlemoen and the haul is tied to the bottom of the boat. They haul the catch up into the boat once they are out of the area. At lifebuoy 16 they transfer the catch to a fishing boat. Because there is no police boat in the vicinity it is hard to catch them, but we are determined to do so.

If you happen to see scuba divers operate from a rubberduck or boat, please contact SEAWATCH at 083 212 2252/3 to investigate.

Two SEAWATCH members have become law enforcement officers. One is Pierre du Toit of Rooiels. Baie dankie, Pierre. Ons gaan jou in die seisoen nodig kry!

SEAWATCH has also offered to pay half the salary of another law enforcement officer who will be utilised exclusively to patrol the

sea. This would come from our WWF grant.

SEAWATCH would like to concentrate more on the educational side of conservation, but until we have sufficient law enforcement officers stemming the tide of poachers delivering to the Chinese triads, SEAWATCH will help patrol and apprehend poachers. We are starting to develop the educational side of SEAWATCH by developing programmes for school kids and organising educational outings for them.

The strength of SEAWATCH lies in its members' vigilance and in the databank we are building up. Please report all suspected poaching.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

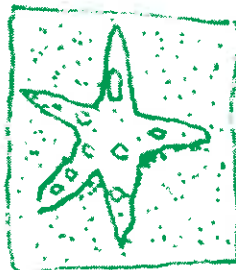
- ◆ Report any suspected poaching to SEAWATCH.
- ◆ When diving or fishing, make sure you stay within the legal limits and ensure that your family, friends and guests do so as well.
- ◆ Help us promote the spirit of conservation to replace the culture of poaching.

This is one of the best coastlines in the world and still relatively unspoilt.

Have a great Christmas season!

Evette Weyers

(Chairperson of SEAWATCH)



WÊRELD MARIENE WEEK

Rooiels se bydrae tot hierdie aksie het Donderdag 5 November die vorm van 'n strand skoonmaak aksie aangeneem.

Daardie oggend het dit letterlik gesous. Kort-kort het die buie uitgesak, maar Lida en haar span het vassegeby en 'n groot taak verrig. Drieka daag toe skoon met haar besems op! As mens kon sien hoe fyn en dig die vullis gelê het, was dit nie so 'n vreemde gedagte nie – prakties wel. Daar is met groot geesdrif en kameraderie gewerk en daarna het almal in die Seahorse Inn saam tee gedrink en van Ina se gebak beproef. Daar is heelwat swartsakke in die dorp uitgedeel sodat mense wat nie vir die weer kans gesien het nie, op hulle eie tyd 'n bydrae kon lewer.

Die besoedeling van ons strand deur die wintermaande raak al hoe erger en daarom is dit bemoedigend om te sien hoe mense soos die Baigries en die Mödingers elke naweek loop en skoonmaak. As jy weer strand toe loop, neem gerus 'n sakkie saam en maak 'n stukkie skoon.

A Fynbos Garden

Is our garden an extension of the Rooi Els Nature Reserve, or is the Reserve an extension of our garden? Of course, both statements make sense, because if most of us with properties at Rooi Els preserve our fynbos, we will be playing our part in preserving the extraordinary biodiversity of our area, as well as the habitat and lives of the many creatures

with whom we share our village, and which do not recognize our cadastral boundaries.

Yesterday in the late afternoon as we sat in our garden it seemed quite inappropriate to think in terms of "our erf". We watched the slanting rays of the sun shine upwards through the mass of *Pelargonium cucullatum* flowering in the Reserve, and the orange pincushions (*Leucospermum cordifolium*) which lit up our garden like small, fragile lamps. A variety of sunbirds and honeybirds feast on these flowers, as well as on the deep yellow flowers of the *Leucospermum conocarpodendron* bushes which flourish in our part of Rooiels, as they do on the slopes of our mountains. We also love to watch the swooping flight of our stoep-mates, the rock martins, in search of their insect diet. Once again, a clutch of eggs is being incubated in a small clay nest on our stoep.

Less welcome tasters of flowers are the baboons! A self-seeded *Leucospermum cordifolium* glowing with flowers was later found with only one or two flowers left on the bush, the rest lying smashed on the ground beside it. Having chased a large male baboon off the property, orange pincushion in his mouth (where was my camera?!), I have no doubt who the culprit is!

One day I watched one of my hairy visitors dexterously begin to open the living room window. I glared at him and shouted, and off he went to the next port of call, the dirt bin. This was another disappointment, as it contained only bundles of dodder (*Cassytha ciliolata*, also known as "devil's tresses", and "devil's sewing thread") that mass of parastic tendrils which strangle plants, often old and woody ones, almost like a slow alternative to fire. The next stop was a *Pelargonium cucullatum* halfway down the drive, where he picked a bloom and nibbled it before stopping near the road to dig up and eat some roots. I was therefore not surprised to see a troop of baboons foraging in the Nature Reserve later in the day.

While walking near the corner of Mammosa and Rockland Roads recently, we saw a shrub with grey leaves and flowers of a deep bronze colour. We identified it in our South African Wild Flower Guide, No. 5, "Hottentots Holland to Hermanus", as "wild sage", or *Salvia africana-lutea*. The guide says "This once common and widespread plant, now becoming scarce because of the development of its habitat by man, provides an essential food supply for sunbirds when the proteas on the mountains are out of flower." We were able to buy a specimen at the Harold Porter Nursery, and hope it will not be long before it becomes a favourite item on the menu of our bird restaurant.

Perhaps because the Nature Reserve at the moment provides little cover and food for snakes, we saw many mice scurrying about their business during winter. One day a movement at the side of the road caught my eye. There were two of the little creatures, so unafraid that I was able to look long into the soft deep-brown eyes of one of them. On another occasion, when clearing away the too-enthusiastic spread of buffalo grass, a fierce chirruping stopped me in my tracks. The sound came from a place close to my feet, and careful investigation revealed, hidden skilfully with a lid of the finest shreds of grass covered with coarse stalks, a nest of baby mice. The sound these tiny creatures made in an extremity of danger was strident, intimidating, and on this occasion effective. The dune taalbos (*Rhus laevigata*), a shrub with small glossy green leaves which makes an excellent hedge or screen, not only provides food for birds, but has, I have been told, edible roots, and its wood can be used for walking sticks and tough stakes. Its downside is that it has a widespread root system which enables it to colonise large areas of the fynbos, so that we are only encouraging its growth where we really want it to flourish.

A visitor from Kwazulu-Natal told me that the leaves of the sour fig (*Carpobrotus edulis* and *Carpobrotus acinaciformis*) provide relief from bluebottle stings. I tried it out on a scorpion or centipede sting (I did not catch sight of the beast which caused me sharp and sudden pain) with most satisfactory results.

Ixia dubia is blooming at the moment, the small, yellow, trumpet-like flowers held high on a long and incredibly slender stalk, a tiny master-piece of engineering.

Jean Cowen

November 1998

Wat kan ek doen as die wind op Rooiels waai?

- ♦ Gaan hou piekniek by die Kogelbaaigrotte. Die wind waai nooit daar nie en dis asemrowend mooi.
- ♦ Gaan swem in die Palmietstrandmeer.
- ♦ Maak 'n groep van 8 mense bymekaar, bel Leith Steele by 083 442 6727 en bespreek 'n kanovaart op die Botrivierstrandmeer en kyk na die wilde perde. Dit is 'n belewenis en kos net R25 per persoon.
- ♦ Klim na die watervalle van Luiperdskloof in die Harold Porter Botaniese Tuine.
- ♦ Gaan kyk na die pikkewynkolonie in Bettysbaai.
- ♦ Gaan stap in die Kogelberg Natuurreservaat.
- ♦ Koek en Tee by Harold Porter Botaniese Tuin

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KERSFONDS
BYDRAES KAN BY
DIE SEA HORSE INN
GEMAAK WORD.**