

Bries Breeze

DECEMBER 2002 DESEMBER

ROOIELS BELASTINGBETALERSVERENIGING (REBV) POSBUS 89 BETTYSBAAI 7140
ROOIELS RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION (RERA) PO BOX 89 BETTY'S BAY 7140

TO SEE A WORLD IN A GRAIN OF SAND
AND A HEAVEN IN A WILD FLOWER
HOLD INFINITY IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND
AND ETERNITY IN AN HOUR

WILLIAM BLAKE



WAT DIE HART VAN VOL IS...

Ons gedenk die stigting van die Rooiels Belastingbetalersvereniging 30 jaar gelede en die geboorte van ons gemeenskap en ons etos. Ons kyk met nuwe oë na wat ons daaruit kan leer. Ons is dankbaar vir die passie en toewyding van die Rooielsers van ouds, wat Rooiels vir ons bewaar het. Ons is veel aan hulle verskuldig. Vrywilligers, almal. Hulle spore kan die Suidoos nooit wegwaai nie, want hulle spore lê in ons harte en in ons Visie vir Rooiels wat ons koester.

Was hulle net so betower deur hierdie ruwe landskap, sy wildheid en sy oneindige broosheid? (Partykeer wonder mens of Rooiels nie dalk self sy mense versigtig selekteer nie?!)

Hoe lank al hou Klein Hangkip wag oor die see en beskut hy plant, mens en dier? Ons sien die strandlopers se skulphope langs die kus en dink na oor daardie eerste bewoners eeue gelede. Partykeer wonder ons oor die Rooielsers wat nog eendag hier gaan wees, as ons lankal dood is. Maar dis Desember 2002 en ONS is die enigstes wat NOU die mag en keuse het om, nederig en in erkentlikheid, sagkens met Rooiels om te gaan. Sagkens, want Rooiels behoort eintlik nie aan ons nie; dit is bloot aan ons geleen vir 'n vlietende oomblik.

Ons is nie 'n eiland nie - geeneen van ons leef net vir ons onself nie, of deur ons eie kragte alleen nie. Ons is deel van 'n misterieuse web van lewe en interaksie en diversiteit. En nêrens ervaar ons dit duideliker nie, as juis hier midde in hierdie uitbundige oorfloed en verskeidenheid van ons fynbos koninkryk. Dit spreek tot die kern van wat dit beteken om mens te wees. Dit daag ons uit om deel te neem aan iets ewigs en oneindig groots, iets wat voortgaan ongeag die sepie-sages van ons eie ego's.

Rooiels gee elke dag in oorfloed aan ons. Die gawe van skoonheid en die vreugde van lewe. En met harte wat oorloop van dankbaarheid vir hierdie geskenk, gee elkeen van ons op sy eie manier, uiteindelik ook iets terug aan Rooiels...

Elke ding het sy vaste tyd,
elke ding in hierdie wereld het sy tyd:
'n tyd om te sê wat die hart van vol is,
'n tyd om dankie te sê...

ESTELLE RAYMOND
VOORSITTER REBV

THE DAY WE DIE A SOFT BREEZE WILL WIPE OUT OUR FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND.
WHO WILL TELL THE TIMELESSNESS THAT ONCE WE WALKED THIS WAY IN THE DAWN OF TIME?

WATER AND ROAD AFFAIRS

Prof. Bryan Davies (Associate Professor of Zoology and Founder of the Freshwater Research Unit at UCT) visited Rooiels to advise us on how to manage storm water run-off and how to grade the roads in order to avoid the situation that has arisen in Pringle Bay where flooding of properties during the winter has become a big problem.

The most important point he made, was that man-made structures should not fight natural features and the stronger, insistent forces of nature. If an artificial, man-made structure to divert or control water flow is imposed on the landscape, people will be having to repair, upgrade and modify constantly, as the natural pathways of water and seeps into wetlands will constantly undermine and ultimately destroy these structures. The more the landscape is modified, the more problems arise.

Ideally, a property owner should be informed when purchasing a property as to the challenges that water seepage will create when he modifies the property by building on it. Surface 'doctoring' of the water flows will not eliminate the seepage through the soil - this has implications for damp homes and the placement of septic tanks. If the truth be known, the presence of a wetland or seep on a property may make it unsuitable for development, because the water table may be too high, or because it lies in the path of natural run-off to lower ground wetlands.

If a drainage ditch has to be made, it is advisable to line the ditch with stones to create a surface against which the speed of water running in spate, is slowed. The broken surface dissipates the energy and allows the water to filter through to the ground below where it is needed to replenish ground water for the maintenance of the vegetation around. Concrete and other smooth surfaced drainage ditches speed up the flow and wherever the water finally emerges, the force/energy of the water will undermine the structures or vegetation. This creates a fresh set of problems.

Prof Davies advised that road grading should not be a flattening exercise with the removal of gravel. Roads should be graded so as to have a convex profile. Gravel should rather be brought in and stamped down firmly in a convex manner so that storm water runs from the raised centre to the sides and into the vegetation. The incorrect manner of grading is evident in the concave groove that is often cut, with embankments being created on the road verges. The flat smooth, central surface quickly degrades when winter rain sets in. Gravity turns these roadbeds into fast moving rivers and in places mini-dams form. Accelerated erosion of the roads and verges occurs. Low-lying properties at the lower ends of the roads or the confluence of several roads are flooded when these artificial rivers dump their water-load into one area instead of having been drained off along the way.

It is Prof. Davies' opinion that with proper grading and adherence to the 20km/hr speed limit in Rooiels, the roads would not need to be graded as often as it now occurs to maintain a safe and dry surface. The fynbos would benefit from the correct way of grading and the residents of low-lying properties would also have a huge sigh of relief.

DEBBY DEVRIES

WATER: MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD!

"EACH GHOSTLY REFLECTION IN THE CLEAR WATERS OF THE LAKES TELLS OF EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF MY PEOPLE. THE WATER'S MURMUR IS THE VOICE OF MY FATHER'S FATHER. THE RIVERS ARE OUR BROTHERS. THEY QUENCH OUR THIRST. THEY CARRY OUR CANOES AND FEED OUR CHILDREN. SO YOU MUST GIVE TO THE RIVERS THE KINDNESS YOU WOULD GIVE ANY BROTHER."

(CHIEF SEATTLE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE USA: 1852)

WAAR DAAR 'N ROKIE IS...

Die Munisipaliteit is 'n verduideliking aan Rooiels verskuldig waarom 2 brandbane in die dorp gemaak is. Dit is die mening van die Nasionale Parkeraad, wat om 'n mening genader is nadat die padreserwes van 2 strate onlangs skoongemaak is sonder die medewete van die Rooiels Natuurreservaat Skakelkomitee of die REBV..

Brandbane vervul volgens die Parkeraad die volgende funksies:

1. Dit bied toegang na 'n brand.
2. Dit is 'n afspringplek om van te werk.
3. Dit gee geleentheid vir die stig van 'n voorbrand.
4. Dit bied beskerming van die aangrensende eiendom (maar bied nie beskerming in sterk wind, waar vlampte tot 500 meter van die vuur kan ontstaan nie).

Die Parkeraad hou brandbane van 65 kilometer in die fynbosgebied van die Suid-Skiereiland in stand. 57 Kilometer daarvan bestaan uit paaie, sogenaamde 'Jeep tracks' en sogenaamde 'Pipe tracks'. Die padreserwes word nie skoongemaak nie.

Die Parkeraad is dus van mening dat die padnetwerk in Rooiels reeds die doeleindes van brandbane dien.

Brandbane moet minstens een en 'n half tot twee keer so wyd wees as die hoogte van aangrensende plantegroei. 'n Brandbaan om die grens van dorpe en fynbosgebied, soos in Rooiels se geval, is noodsaaklik. Die risiko binne die dorp word as minder beskou.

Die Nasionale Wet op Veld- en Bosbrande van 1998 vereis dat aangrensende eienaars ingelig moet word voordat brandbane gemaak word.

Die Parkeraad beveel aan dat Rooiels in terme van die wet, so gou moontlik 'n brandbestrydingsassosiasie stig.

ELDIE BRINK
SEKRETARIS: ROOIELS NATUURRESERVAAT
SKAKELKOMITEE

N2 TOLL ROAD IS CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Having attended the open day with regard to this project on 2nd October, I make the following observations:

It appears that the project will be going ahead despite strong opposition from the public. I gather the only routing concession made was through Khayelitsha where the consortium feared taxi blockades.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and other concerns of the consortium and contractors are limited to the immediate vicinity of the "new" N2 route. There appears to be no concern for the Hangklip community, which will be affected by traffic taking this as an alternative route. The R44 is calculated to experience an additional 21% increase in traffic volumes regarded as a "moderate" impact with a possible additional 500 vehicles per day over the current average of 2300 per day. It is likely that a substantial number of these will be heavy vehicles.

The construction period is likely to be critical, when traffic delays and detours on the N2 will lead to much heavier use of the R44 by all types of vehicles. It also seems possible that Hermanus-bound traffic and returns will be tempted use the R44 instead of the Toll Road, thus placing increasingly heavy loads on the R44 and this is likely to persist even after the construction period.

There is no suggestion of any control of type, weight, length of vehicle that diverts from the N2. The consortium relies on the fiscal implications to encourage drivers to use the Toll Road. As the life of the R44 (Clarence Drive) could be reduced by one fifth, one wonders who will ultimately bear this cost?

The Botrivier Plaza has not been moved to the Caledon side of Botrivier and therefore the R43/44 is an obvious alternative route for west-bound traffic wishing to avoid paying Tolls. Much the same appears to apply to the Gordon's Bay Plaza for east-bound traffic. 'Escape routes' appear to be a deliberate part of the plan, to avoid giving motorists the impression that they are being *forced* to pay a toll. This way, they have a choice. The impact on the alternative routes will become our problem, not theirs.

Inhabitants of the Hangklip area will be able to get to the Helderberg area without going through a toll, but Cape Town access will involve a toll. A tentative high of R35 and low of R17.50 were mentioned for a one-way trip from Hermanus to Cape Town, and possibly R7.50 for us from Rooiels to Cape Town.

There is still no apparent consideration for our Biosphere or the implications of various forms of pollution, road-kills, noise, reverberations, road-damage etc from the increased traffic. This, despite written objections addressing this specific point, which have been lodged after every public participation event

On a more positive note, perhaps this could present the Overstrand authorities with an opportunity to resolve many of the ongoing TR 27/1 traffic problems that have been plaguing the community for so many years.



ROCKFALL ON CLARENCE DRIVE

Bearing in mind how keen the consortium contractors are to get their teeth into the project, we could motivate improvements, facilities and regulations to be included as an integral part of the Minister's permission for this project. These will then remain in place when the project is complete.

The Overberg Municipality and all civic organisations need to unite in taking a tough stance and ensure:

- That the EIA is extended to cover the alternative route through the Kogelberg area.
- The upgrading of vulnerable sections e.g. the Betty's Bay "rumble" noise problem, the Rooiels Hill, danger of rockfalls, traffic congestion, destruction of roads by "heavies", etc.
- Weigh-bridges, vehicle length restrictions, speed restrictions, even possibly entrance fees to the Biosphere..

What we don't achieve now, we will pay for later - one way or another!

KENNISGEWING VAN ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING

DIE 30STE ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING VAN
DIE ROOIELS BELASTINGBETALERSVERENING
VIND PLAAS OP VRYDAG 27 DESEMBER 2002
OM 17:00-18:30 TE ERF 239 (DIE AUGUSTIDES
WONING).

BRING ASB EIE STOEL SAAM.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OUR 30TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TAKES
PLACE ON FRIDAY 27 DECEMBER 2002 AT 17:00
- 18:30 AT ERF 239 ROOIELS (THE AUGUSTIDES'
HOME)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN
CHAIR!

CRIME AND NO PUNISHMENT

Having escaped the city, those of us lucky enough to live here or visit on a regular basis, often boast about the peace and quiet and the wonderful sense of safety. How safe are we?

At a recent RERA EXCO Meeting, we were informed of the incidence of crime increasing to alarming levels in Betty's Bay. There have been 162 reported incidents of criminal activity in Betty's Bay, mostly burglaries. Poaching is **not** part of this count.

A short time ago, I happened to start up a conversation with the gentleman who has the contract to clean and clear the storm water trenches and drains along the R44 from Gordon's Bay to Rooiels. He said his team of workers have found tens of wallets in the fynbos around parking areas along this route. Apparently the cars are broken into when they are parked and left unattended while visitors go walking or to the beach. This is particularly bad at the Kogelbaai parking area which is popular with surfers, but it appears this trend is occurring all along the coast.

A chat with police officers, has also revealed that thieves, some of them children, operate on the beach at Kleinmond. As soon as a person leaves their belongings to swim, the thieves strike and make off with everything they can carry away. As regards poaching, Mike Tannet (Seawatch, Betty's Bay), keeps the statistics of poaching reports for the Reserve there. As an example, he quoted the figures for September for the past 3 years: September 2000 12 reports; September 2001 75; September 2002 112. He says that the same pattern and increase can be seen for every month of the year.

Even more worrying is the fact that poachers are becoming more and more brazen. Mike Tannet's wife has been severely assaulted, as have 20 other residents in Betty's Bay. Here in Rooiels, suspected poachers have become increasingly aggressive and are prepared to move about openly. They have no compunction in threatening a person in broad daylight, as was my experience recently. Several people in the village have had nasty experiences, and it's only a matter of time before someone is injured.

The police claim they cannot prevent anyone from being in an area until a crime has been committed. By the time they arrive on the scene, the perpetrators have long left the area. Poachers are looking to find new poaching grounds, closer to Strand and Cape Town. Only if we are vigilant and set up a chain of information, so that as many villagers as possible become aware of the presence of poachers, and inform the correct people timeously, will we be able to thwart the invasion of the village and its environs by these thugs.

I have suggested that the newspapers and radio publish, as a community service, the description of vehicles and registration numbers of known and suspected poachers so that the different communities can become aware of possible criminal activities in their neighbourhood. Currently we are using our e-mail to do just this.

The long-term effect of allowing criminals to establish themselves in our villages, will have implications for the biodiversity of the biosphere and tourism. Rooiels is fortunate in being small enough to monitor effectively if we are alert. Fortunately, crime in Rooiels other than poaching, is minimal according to the police. The only incident I know about, is the burglary that took place right next door one wild winter's night. I did not hear a thing! So much for being alert!



DO' AND DON'TS:

- Do report about suspicious activity to the local Seawatch representative or the police.
- Do make a note of vehicles' descriptions, registration numbers, number and descriptions of people.
- Do photograph these if you can without jeopardising yourself.
- Do contact your local newspapers reporting the incident, descriptions and registration numbers.
- Do start making our minister, Valli Moosa accountable to us for the stripping of the coast as well as residents' and visitors' safety.
- Don't approach poachers. Call the police and leave it to them. But follow up your report, so that the progress/action taken or not, can be tracked.

DEBBY DE VRIES

NUMBERS TO PHONE IN CASE OF SUSPECTED POACHING
SEAWATCH 083 2122252 / 3 (MIKE TANNET, BETTY'S BAY)
SEAWATCH 0282738483 (EVETTE WEYERS, ROOIELS)
KLEINMOND POLICE 028 2713333 (INSPECTOR DIPPENAAR)



ABALONE POACHING

The poaching of abalone, locally called perlemoen, is one South Africa's most pressing environmental issues. Along the 200 km long stretch of coastline between Cape Hangklip and Cape Agulhas an ecological drama is playing itself out: a drama in which I have been a player for over three years.

In early 1999, I began my research on the impacts poaching activities were having on the abalone populations and on the kelp forest ecosystem. Today in 2002, with my study slowly coming to an end, the poaching situation has reached crisis levels, with gangs of up to 300 poachers systematically stripping reef after reef, taking up to several thousand animals a night.

The Chinese Mafia, Triads, controls the upper reaches of the trade and the poachers are paid with a king's ransom. Abalone was only worth 0,15 Rand per kg in 1973 and 9 Rand per kg in 1989, today the poachers get anything from between 200 and 600 Rand per kg, depending on black market demand. I have come across 14 year old school kids, who had made more money in a single night of poaching than their teachers makes in several months.

If such rampant environmental destruction were occurring on land, die public outcry would be much greater, but hidden by the ocean surface, in the murky depths of the sea, few people realize the grave consequences that poaching is having on the abalone and the kelp forests they inhabit.

At the present rate of poaching, abalone stocks will be fished to ecological extinction within less than 3 years. While divers will still come across abalone for many years to come, by this stage the population will have declined to such a low level, that recovery is impossible. Slowly over a period of 25-50 years, the last wild perlemoen will die, until extinction occurs.

But it is not just the abalone themselves that are affected, as large and dominant organisms they are key players in the everyday functioning of the kelp forest ecosystem. Areas of the reef that have been denuded of abalone are quickly covered in silt and sediment transforming a habitat rich in species into an almost lifeless undersea desert. This transformed habitat lacks a clean rock clean rock surface, which is crucial to allow mussels, limpets, and other creature to attach themselves. These creatures are primary food sources for crayfish, linefish and other important commercial species. In the long run abalone poaching impacts on everyone who harvests from the sea.

The social implications of abalone poaching are that many areas along the affected stretch of coastline are no longer safe. Coastal residents fear stumbling across poachers who have in the past assaulted people for just being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Gangs from all over are coming into this area to set up poaching operations. Organized crime syndicates at the top are becoming established, and many of the schools in the area are now, for the first time, facing a serious drug problem amongst young pupils.

Poachers take away the lively-hood of legal abalone fishermen in impoverished coastal communities. They compromise the security and safety of our beaches and affect the integrity and natural functioning of our kelp forest ecosystems.

THOMAS PESCHAK. BSC HON PHD. CANDIDATE
MARINE BIOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITITITE, UCT

WE KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT THE WILD CREATURES WE
ARE LOSING SO FAST.
WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT WHY THEY ARE, OR WHY
THEY ARE WHERE THEY ARE.
MORE IMPORTANT WE DON NOT KNOW WHAT WILL
HAPPEN WHEN THEY ARE NO MORE.
ONE THING WE DO KNOW THAT MANKIND WILL BE SO
MUCH THE POORER FOR THEIR PASSING.
SO WILL THIS EARTH...

HAVING DESTROYED OUR NATURAL HERITAGE HOW
CAN WE SURVIVE AS COMPASSIONATE BEINGS?

DENNIS WINCHESTER-GOULD: CITIZENS OF THE WILDERNESS

OM 'N HELD TE WEES

"Ons het helde en heldedade nodig in ons land. Nie meer die ou "heldhaftige" dade van steel uit die see en die polisie uitoorlê nie - eerder klein, alledaagse heldedade van daaglik jou brood eerlik verdien en dit nie ten koste van jou medemens of die natuur nie. Die heldedade van saambou aan 'n ware toekoms vir ons land ten spyte van ekonomiese druk en misdaadbedreiging. Van nie saamlag as die gulsiges grootpraat oor hoe hulle suksesvol stroop nie en nie saamsmul aan die vangste van die stropers nie."

EVETTE WEYERS - UITTTREKSEL UIT BRIES 3/1997

VISION WORKSHOP

During 1996 RERA Exco formulated a "Vision for Rooiels" which has been validated by the members present at each successive AGM. As the Vision has always been considered a dynamic process, RERA organised a workshop to re-visit the original document. An open invitation was issued to the public and all Rooiels organisations.

On Saturday 24th August, 21 persons gathered at Porter Gardens. Among these were representatives from REIA, REBC, Rooiels Businesses, BAG, Seawatch etc., covering the entire spectrum of Rooiels interests. Under the able facilitatorship of international facilitator Elisabeth Dostal, the group worked through the day, discussing various priorities for aspects of life in Rooiels. Agreement on, and commitment to, the desirable ETHOS for Rooiels was agreed. Consensus was also reached on the broad AIMS that will eventually underpin the revised co-operative Vision for Rooiels.

As this revision is a *process*, not an event, the various (and numerous!) suggestions and findings were conveyed to a sub-committee consisting of Estelle Raymond (Chairperson RERA), Izak Lessing (Chairman REIA), Chris Burlock (BAG) Debby de Vries (Conservation Portfolio RERA) Rob Fryer (original Vision committee), Geoff Harris (Past Chairman RERA). This sub-committee was mandated to correlate the Group findings into a digestible document for presentation to the Rooiels community, as a foundation for public discussion and ultimate acceptance as a new RE Vision.

Having studied the documentation, the sub-committee met on October 7th and 14th and will continue to meet until a presentable document emerges.

GEOFF HARRIS

ON THE AGENDA OF THE FEDERATION OF RATEPAYERS' ORGANISATIONS

Land for conservation:

The American conservationist, Dr Gregory Thomas has visited the area and is enthusiastic about purchasing private land for conservation purposes.

Palmiet River management:

The Federation is concerned about maintaining the correct level and steady flow of the river. Sewerage spillage occurs in the river mouth.

Municipal Structure:

A new structure for the municipality will be announced in December. The new municipal manager will have a performance related contract. Ward committees, with 10-15 members per ward, will be created and chaired by ward councilors.

Toll Road:

The scoping report pays no attention to the impact on the R44 (Clarence Drive) and on neighbouring residential areas. (see report elsewhere)

SHIRLEY RICHTER

OILED PENGUINS

From time to time oiled penguins are rescued from the Rooiels coastline. In the past few months an oiled penguin was found on the slipway. A penguin which had lost a leg was found by Debby de Vries on the beach.

Oil destroys the waterproofing ability of the feathers, causing the downy undercoat to become waterlogged. This makes diving difficult and also leads to hypothermia. The affected penguin then makes a landfall either on a breeding island or on the nearest mainland. This in turn leads to starvation and dehydration on land as the penguins are reluctant to return to sea. The bird attempt to rid itself from the oil by preening, ingesting the oil in the process. The oil affects the red blood cells causing toxic anemia in penguins. Oil ingested by the contaminated adult will also be passed on to the young, which are fed regurgitated food. The contaminated penguins experience a complete shut down of their immune system making them prone to pneumonia and other diseases.

Most of the oiled birds are rescued between June and October of each year. This trend corresponds with the winter period that is characterized by strong northwest winds and stormy seas. It is thought that the winter storms bring oil from bilge and tank washings into the inshore environment.

Penguins are endangered. Anyone finding an oiled penguin is asked to leave it where it is and report it, as soon as possible, to Darelle Snyman at 083 448 7957 or to Sea Watch tel 083 212 2253.

DARELLE SNYMAN

UITSTAPPIE NA BETTYSBAAI PIKKEWYNE

DARELLE NEEM ROOIELSERS AS DEEL VAN ONS VAKANSIEPROGRAM DEUR DIE PIKKEWYNKOLONIE EN VERTEL ONS MEER OOR HIERDIE VOËLS. GEDURENDE DESEMBER VERVEER DIE PIKKEWYNE EN BEHOORT DAAR HEELWAT TE WEES OM TE SIEN. HOU ONS VAKANSIEPROGRAM EN DIE KENNISGEWINGBORD DOP!



A PLACE TO HIDE

If you, as I am, are waiting for the proposed bird hide to materialise, here is the latest news regarding it.

We were delighted when a donor appeared to make the bird hide a reality. This hide is proposed for the Nature Reserve on the banks of the Rooiels River in Klein Rooiels. (Below erven 23 to 25). The 'Bird Ladies' of Rooiels, Alison Ayres and Helen Jones, have compiled a list of 70 species of birds they have recorded in that area. Many of us have been waiting to access the riverbank in a safe, non-intrusive manner in order to view these species more closely. Nature Conservation is in the process of obtaining quotations for the erection of the hide.

Two objections regarding the bird hide and the clearing of the servitude have been received. Nature Conservation at the Municipality will be forwarding a sketch of the proposed hide to the objectors.

It is envisaged that the proposed hide has low usage impact on the area. The very nature of the activity of bird-watching, which is quiet and unobtrusive, will entail very little or no disturbance of residents in Klein Rooiels. In order to prevent 'twitchers' straying onto private property, a clearly marked path on an existing servitude is planned. The bird hide is for the use of Rooiels Villagers and their visitors and advertising it widely as a 'tourist attraction' is not the intention.

DEBBY DEVRIES

VELDBRANDE - VRIEND EN VYAND

Die volgende brandseisoen kruip alweer nader. Die voorkoms van onbeheerde brande is 'n gereelde verskynsel in die Hangklip-Kleinmond area. Die meeste van ons het al eerstehands die verwoestende effek van wegholbrande aanskou. Die topografie van die Hangklip-Kleinmond area gepaardgaande met die lang droë somers en sterk winde verhoog die kanse vir die voorkoms van wegholbrande. Die verwoestende wegholbrande wat die Kaapse Skiereiland getref het in Januarie 2000 het weer die media fokus geplaas op die gevaar wat onbeheerde brande inhou vir die natuur, menseleuens en eiendom. In dieselfde periode het verwoestende wegholbrande ook ons area geteister. Tenspyte hiervan blyk baie mense nogsteeds onbekommerd en oningelig te wees, en is nalatigheid die grootste oorsaak van wegholbrande in ons gebied.

Brande vorm 'n integrale deel van die ekologie van ons area. Die Fynbos plantegroei is aangepas by vuur en 'n brand elke 5-20 jaar is noodsaaklik vir die handhawing van biodiversiteit en die gesonde funksionering van die ekosisteem. Die periode tussen brande wissel van plantgemeenskap tot plantgemeenskap, party fynbos plantgemeenskappe bereik volwassenheid vinniger as ander en is dus gouer vatbaar vir 'n brand. Periodieke brande verminder die opbou van brandmateriaal en dus as 'n onbeheerde brand sou voorkom sal dit teen 'n laer intensiteit brand. Verder hersirkuleer brande ook waardevolle nutriënte vasgevang in ou plantmateriaal.

Uitheimse indringerplante verdring inheemse fynbos spesies en verhoog die brandlading. Brande wat per ongeluk ontstaan in areas verdring met indringers is amper onmoontlik om te beheer. Indringerplante brand meer intens as fynbos en laat 'n beskadigde en geerodeerde landskap na. Sulke brande vernietig of beskadig wortels, fynbos sade en ander organismes en belemmer dus die regenerasie vermoë van die landskap. Beheerde brande word as 'n bestuursinstrument gebruik deur natuurbewaarders en blomboere om die brandlading te verlaag, veldhernuwing te

WAT KAN U DOEN?

- Kap uitheemse indringerplante uit en verwyder ou en dooie fynbos.
- Plant 'n strook buffelsgras rondom u huis, dit dien as buffer en verskaf werk spasie ingeval van 'n brand.
- Rig u braaiplek op 'n veilige plek in.
- Moenie vure sonder toesig laat en maak seker die kole is dood met afloop van die braai.
- Maak seker dat gaste wat u vakansiehuis gebruik ingelig is oor brandgevaar.
- Ondersteun u plaaslike uitkapgroep.
- Rapporteer enige brand of aktiwiteit wat 'n brandgevaar kan inhou by die volgende nommers: KLEINMOND 082 824 1434
HANGKLIP 082 7744 581
- Gedurende 'n brand moet u met u hoofligte aanry en alle instruksies van die noodpersoneel gehoorsaam.



DARELLE SNYMAN

AIRPLANE CRASH NEAR ROOIELS?

Although we cannot get to Rooiels so often any more we enjoy hearing all the news from our children and look forward to the newsletter .

Some months ago a kind gentleman rang me with a very interesting story. He heard from a friend that in 1944 a German submarine was sighted in False Bay and an airplane was sent out to investigate. Unfortunately because of high winds they crashed into the mountains near Rooiels. Presumably the pilot and copilot, (passengers?) were killed. A memorial stone was erected on the site but he did not know any more details except that it was above the road.

I must apologise to the gentleman. We had guests there and I could not find a pen to note down the name and was unable to contact him again. Does anyone know any more about this fascinating story and where the memorial is? A fax at 0446912708 will reach me or email at rsblake@iafrica.co.za.

WAT U NIE MOET DOEN NIE!

- Moenie buite vuurmaak wanneer die wind sterk is nie.
- Moenie hoë plantegroei naby u huis toelaat nie.
- Moenie brandende of smeulende material, veral nie kole en sigaretstompies, in die veld uitgooi nie.

Beste wense vir 'n brandvrye seisoen!

DARELLE SNYMAN
OVERSTRAND NATUURBEWARING

NATURE CONSERVATION AT WORK IN THE VILLAGE

Darelle Snyman's team has been busy in the village since the end of September. Although a whole week was lost, owing to the misfortunes that plagued her team, Darelle is still hoping to complete as many of the tasks we had prioritised as being urgent.

As I write, the new section of boardwalk, 50 metres and more, has been completed in the main Reserve. This bridges the very soggy portion of path, that had walkers creating new paths alongside the waterlogged original.

Much repair work has been done. Plant material has been packed onto the embankment along Rocklands Road which was denuded of its vegetation in the BIG May storm. Along the path around the Point, a spare piece of decking has been placed so as to protect the cutting (created by the sea, wind and many feet) and rocks have been placed alongside to prevent further deterioration of the embankment. The sea also managed to remove the old path that led to the Slipway Beach from the Point, and a proliferation of paths appeared over the dunes. A main path has now been designated, but in order to rehabilitate the others, seaweed has been strewn over them so that the vegetation can recover. Similarly, a dune that is being badly eroded by the swirling wind, has been packed with seaweed.

On the other side of Rooiels, the pathway in front of erf 238 will be getting a boardwalk for about 10 metres from the road, so as to prevent further erosion of the pathway and to allow the vegetation to recover.

The drainage trench under Harveya Rd, running into the Nature Reserve was showing signs of erosion and rocks have been placed in the trench to disperse the energy of the water draining into the Nature Reserve.

Pathways, over the dune to Slipway Beach and some servitudes, alongside "Against the Wind", between erf 234 & 243 and between erven 226 & 227, 218 & 219 have been cleared of the undergrowth that has been obstructing free passage from the upper to lower roads. A suitably robust pathway is going to be built on the servitude running down from Roella Rd. to Porter Drive (& 299, 315 erven 298 & 314). This has been deemed urgently necessary as children living on Roella Drive are currently forced to use Clarence Drive to access the village or beach. A donation of R2 000 will be used to assist the Nature Conservation Department to complete this soon.

Our bins are looking shabby, but this maintenance, is unfortunately not in Darelle's brief. Nevertheless, new information signs have been placed at various spots with more to come. The "no fire" signs that broken or too shabby, are to be replaced and are on order.

The work is ongoing, but a huge Thank-You is due to Darelle and her team. It is a pleasure to be able to consult and work with her.

DEBBY DE VRIES

ABUSE ON OUR DOORSTEP

Rooiels is a wonderfully pet-friendly place. (Friends who stay here to baby-sit our dogs, always relate with awe stories of Rooielsers greeting and conversing with them because they've recognized Caesar and Danny on their walks!) Virtually all Rooiels canines are characters of note, from Clara the tree-puller to Tokkolosh the self-appointed baboon alarm! Of course we dog-owners have a responsibility to keep our charges from fouling public preserves and ensuring they do not disturb the area's wildlife...or our quiet life! And provided we honour that responsibility, Rooiels should continue to be a pets' paradise.

But do you know that not far from Rooiels dogs are starving, suffering and being abused? As a fieldworker for KAWS, (Kleinmond Animal Welfare Society), I go into disadvantaged areas to check on the animals there. Did you know that there's a mistaken belief in some communities that the tendon under a dog's tongue is a "worm"...and owners actually cut it out with a razor blade? I've come across puppies dying from being immersed in old diesel oil... because there's myth that oil cures mange! I've seen dogs with broken legs...their owner's method of discipline! I know of a dog that was kept in a cupboard-sized shed for 3 years, standing on half a metre of its own excrement, because it 'jumped up' on people!

Of course there are pet owners in these same communities who love their pets. At a fortnightly KAWS/SAVA Community Clinic in Proteadorp we noticed a little boy who was insistent the vet examine his puppy even though he was equally insistent there was nothing wrong with it. We discovered that his previous dog had got sick and died. The little fellow was so heart-broken he brings his new dog to every clinic...just in case!

And KAWS is making a noticeable difference in many ways. Since June 2001, with the support of donors, the Municipal Dog Tax Fund and Dr Dave, we have been able to sterilize dogs and cats for a fraction of the normal cost. KAWS volunteer fieldworkers educate animal owners on the benefits of sterilization and transport the animals to and from the surgery. We also place kennels, (donated or made by volunteers,) where we've noted dogs chained to a post without shelter from rain or sun. At every opportunity we educate owners on the need to provide water and adequate food to their dogs and often feed dogs ourselves when we see that their (unemployed) owners are unable to do so. And at our Community Clinics we provide affordable access to basic veterinary health care including consultations with a vet, de-worming, rabies shots etc, and where volunteers are kept busy dipping dogs against mange and other parasites!

ESTELLE LE ROUX

SHOULD ANY ROOIELSER WANT TO HELP JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST ANIMAL ABUSE BY VOLUNTEERING TIME OR BECOMING A DONOR OR MEMBER; PLEASE CALL ESTELLE LE ROUX, 072 377 4808.



TOWER OOMBLIKKE EN HERINNERINGE AAN ROOIELS

JY WORD UITGENOOI OM DEEL TE NEEM!

Gedurende die Desembervakansie vier die Rooiels Belastingbetalersvereniging sy 30^{ste} bestaansjaar met 'n fotografiese uitstalling van Rooiels oor die jare. Almal met 'n passie vir Rooiels en sy uniekheid is welkom om hul fotos te deel en om die uitstalling by te woon. Oud, jonk, amateurs, professioneel kan deelneem en hul fotos rakend enige onderwerp, aspek van die dorp aan ons te leen ter uitstalling.

Merk asb. alle fotos met u naam en adres (erfnummer op Rooiels, indien moontlik) en indien nodig met 'n kort beskrywing of storie. Om deel te neem, skakel Debby de Vries by 028 2738037 of e-pos. na rooiels@isat.co.za

Die uitstalling sal by Erf 239 Rocklandsweg, Rooiels plaasvind, en sal vanaf Donderdag 26 tot Sondag 29 Desember loop.

IN MEMORIAM

AD DONKER

Adriaan Donker passed away peacefully at Rooiels on Tuesday, 16 July at age 68. He and Karin founded AD Donker publishers, firmly committed to publishing South African literature. The University of Natal in 2000 awarded Ad an honorary doctorate for his contribution to the South African publishing industry. The citation read: *"In 25 years of dedication to the literary life and values of South Africa, Donker lived his philosophy that literature should free the mind of racial bigotry and explore our common, though complex, humanity."* Rooiels was enriched by Ad's presence in our community. He truly loved Rooiels and respected nature. His pride and enthusiasm for the Rooiels Breeze, is our source of inspiration

GRETHA MEYER

Margaretha Cornelia Meyer, (maar Gretha of Grietie of Magret genoem deur verskillende familie of vriende) is die aand van 25 Augustus oorlede. Die Meyers het die erf op Rooiels in 1971/2 gekoop. Sy wou oorsal kon uitkyk op die berge, die see en die natuur. Sy (en my pa) was baie lief vir Rooiels en het die huis "Emoyeni" gedoop; "in die wind" of "in die gees" ("moya" is "wind" of "gees"). Sy was 'n baie lewendig mens en gulhartig. Sy het mense geniet, en om hulle hiernatoe te bring en die skoonheid van die natuur met hulle te deel.

EVETTE WEYERS

BRIAN EDMONDS

Brian Edmonds died of cancer in Graaff Reinett on 24 May. Brian loved everything about Rooiels. He loved sitting on the rocks looking at the sea and going for walks with his wife Helen (Morawski) through the fynbos. He believed that Rooiels should be kept rural and unspoilt. He strongly opposed the subdivision of Erf 324. May your spirit soar above Klein-Hangklip, Brian...

ALL OTHER THINGS, TO THEIR DESTRUCTION DRAW,
ONLY OUR LOVE HATH NO DECAY;
THIS, NO TOMORROW HATH, NOR YESTERDAY,
RUNNING IT NEVER RUNS FROM US AWAY,
BUT TRULY KEEPS HIS FIRST, LAST, EVERLASTING DAY.

JOHN DONNE: 1572-1631

A ROOIELSER'S TIPS FOR BUILDING IN ROOIELS

1. When building/extending/renovating you should preferably be on site and have full control of daily operations and going-ons.
2. As alternative, appoint a registered builder, possibly one previously having worked in the area and having been well recommend for both quality and environmental sensitivity.
3. Meet personally with the builder on site prior to preparations and hand over a list of restrictions pertaining to building in Rooiels/Biosphere and ensure that they are well understood.
4. Designate areas only to be allowed for ground work (placing of rubble etc.) and mark off areas beyond this point with stakes and rope so that they may not be accessed.
5. Erect a portable on-site loo prior to builders arriving and provide loo paper and chemicals for cleaning. With the inclement weather in Rooiels and extreme winds a high density plastic portable loo well secured with ground stakes is advisable and would need to be ordered well in advance due to their scarce availability (Boland Loo hiring services are very obliging about supplying loos for this area where many others have refused as they say their loos get stolen!!). Sheets of roof iron are just not feasible.
6. Provide a bin with lid (the heavy duty municipality approved one) or food and food wrapping because of the baboons and to prevent these being thrown into and around the work site.
7. Fill empty cement bags with rubble. These can be neatly stacked prior to removal. This limits rubble and makes for easy loading when removed.
8. Provide bucket/s filled with sand for distinguishing of cigarettes and to contain stompies.
9. Work sites should be cleaned and cleared before departure every night.
10. As rubble builds up, it must be removed either by the builder or hired rubble remover regularly as this constricts work space and starts to encroach on surrounding areas.
11. Restrict your building team to the work site only.

UPGRADING OUR ENTRANCE

The project to provide more acceptable central signage has been completed and with the eventual fully planted garden-islands around it, we certainly have a more aesthetically friendly entrance. To produce a map of the town presents a number of expensive and technologically complicated problems but hopefully will be completed for the holiday season.



FYNBOS REHABILITATION

Nature has amazing abilities to regenerate itself, particularly Fynbos, which is adapted to destruction by fire. If one manually clears a plot of land, and does not disturb the ground, given some good rains and time, it will recover.

However when humankind comes in with bulldozers to scrape off the vegetation on level plots, or to do some "cut & fill" on steep mountainsides, it is a totally different story. The level plot is usually left devoid of topsoil which contains seeds and bulbs, and the rootstocks are damaged. While the mountainside is left with exposed rocky subsoil on the "cut" and the vegetation below is drowned under the same sub-soil. Under natural conditions it will take many many years for soil to blow in and for plants to re-establish themselves.

This is when the introduction of soil enriched with compost and organic fertilisers can be of some benefit. On a level plot this is easily done. Suitable groundcovers, shrubs, bulbs and trees can then be introduced which will grow relatively quickly especially if well watered. The roots will bind the soil and the leaves will reduce the impact of heavy rainfalls and thereby minimise erosion. Obviously the quicker one can revegetate the garden the less wind erosion there will be.

It is a waste of time to simply "pour" soil down a steep slope. It will simply blow away if it doesn't wash away. I have found that one can use the bigger stones on site to build low dry-packed walls into the hillside and thereby create pockets and terraces in a random way, incorporating the "lay-of-the-land" and big rocks to create a very natural looking slope. These areas are then filled with enriched soil and planted up with suitable indigenous plants.

If an irrigation system is not installed then it is best to leave the rehabilitation of the site until winter, when the plants will have some chance of survival.

JENNY BERESFORD

ROOIELS HEALTH & HACKIT KLUB

"ONS KAP DAT DIT SO KLAP"

Op die oog af skyn Rooiels redelik "skoon" van Rooikrans te wees danksy die harde werk van die kaggroep en erfeienaars. Maar gedurende die afgelope wintermaande het ek 'n opname gedoen van die indringerplante wat in Rooiels voorkom. Dit teken 'n ander prentjie. Ek het net dié plante wat vanaf die pad sigbaar is, opgeteken en hier is 'n paar interessante statistieke vir dié van ons wat gedink het ons dorp is redelik "skoon":

Rooikrans 101
Manatoka 66
Nieu-Seeland Perdestert 13
Bloekoms 10
Port Jacksons 9
Selonsroos 7

Totaal besmette erwe : 154 - wat ongeveer die helfte van al die erwe op Rooiels is!

En dan is daar nog hier en daar 'n mirt, garingboom, pampasgras, ens. en baie Kikuyu wat erg versprei. Kikuyu verskyn nog nie op die lys van verklaarde onkruid en indringerplante nie, maar sy klassifikasie is "voorgestelde verklaarde indringer" en sal moontlik ingesluit word by Kategorie 2.

Hierdie statistieke sal ons sekerlik nederig hou, nie waar nie?

Eienaars van erwe kan hulself vergewis of daar indringer plante op hul erf is en help om ons dorp "skoon" te maak. En as ek so kyk na die prag van die veld en sien hoeveel die kaggroep oor die jare bereik het, weet ek dat ons die regte ding doen.

HETTIE CLAASSENS



HAPPY HACKERS: JANE HENDERSON, IAN RICHTER, HETTIE CLAASSENS, JONATHAN COOPER, CHRIS BURLOCK & DANNY THE DOG

HIGH FIDELITY

WHEN LAST DID YOU SEE OUR RESIDENT PAIR OF KLIPSPRINGERS ON KLEIN-HANGKLIP?

THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS CITES THE MALE KLIPSPRINGER AS BEING THE MOST MONOGAMOUS ANIMAL ON EARTH. IT RARELY STRAYS MORE THAN 5 METRES FROM ITS MATE DURING THEIR ENTIRE LIFETIME TOGETHER!

IT TAKES GUTS!

It takes guts and a great deal of selflessness to cut down those old, beautifully weathered Rooikrans trees that provide the only wind-break, privacy and shade on your property.

But that's just what Gerry Menzel has done and his neighbours are following suit! The Rooiels "Health & Hack-it" Club applauds all those property owners who have sacrificed their alien invasive trees for the greater good of Rooiels and the Biosphere. Imported to bind the soils in windswept costal areas, Rooikrans and Port Jacksons have done their job here and need to be replaced with indigenous trees that will not threaten the fynbos.

If you are not convinced that these invasives are a problem, join the hack group and see for yourself! (Call 028 273 8472 for hack group details.) One mature Rooikrans can produce 40 000 seeds in a year, and these seeds can lie dormant for 20 years!



GERRY'S CHAINSAW MAGIC AT WORK!

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD: 30 YEARS OF CARING FOR ROOIELS

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM DENNIS AND JEAN: TOWARDS EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

At the end of 1985 Denis Cowen was elected to the Exco of the Rooiels Ratepayers' Association (RERA). At that time our small community was subordinate to the Caledon Divisional Council, and represented thereon by a person residing in Kleinmond known to few Rooielsers. RERA was the body which in fact (though not in law) identified, and tried to deal with, matters requiring attention in Rooiels.

On 1 September 1989 the Rooiels Local Council was established, the councillors being the existing Exco of RERA. The Local Council was placed under the jurisdiction of the newly-established Overberg Regional Services Council (ORSC), a body serving a large area with diverse interests. Two and a half years later local councils were dissolved, and Rooiels became part of yet another body, the Hangklip Municipality, comprising Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and ourselves. During a long period Denis Cowen acted in various capacities - as member of the Exco and later as Chairman of RERA, as Chairman of the Local Council, as councillor for Rooiels on the Hangklip Municipal Council, and as the Rooiels representative at the meetings of the ORSC in Bredasdorp.

The Hangklip Municipal Council was the next body to be dissolved, and Rooiels was placed under the newly-formed Hangklip-Kleinmond Municipality. Julia Aalbers was elected as councillor for Rooiels on that body. Denis Cowen, together with Geoff Harris, continued to serve Rooiels' interests in the ongoing Somchem affair, until the matter was finally resolved at the end of 1997.

These were challenging times. The process of maintaining effective representation for Rooiels through all these political changes was difficult enough. Nevertheless Rooiels, with strong support from neighbouring communities, succeeded in gaining Somchem's termination of their armaments testing in the Buffelsrivier Dam catchment area, which provides local townships with water. Through negotiations between all interested parties, electricity was brought in a sensitive way to our village. A referendum was held in Rooiels on that matter.

We were asked what there is to be learned by those hoping to work towards effective governance in a small village like Rooiels. We think the following points may be of some contemporary value.

1. It is essential in all cases to ascertain the relevant facts of the matter in hand so as to formulate the issues accurately, dispassionately and honestly. The whole community should be fully informed so that open and constructive debate may take place. After this a mandate should be sought from the community regarding intended action.

The community should be courageous about what it wants to achieve, despite opposition from bodies which may seem stronger, larger and more influential, including central government.

It is important to ascertain who is legally accountable as regards the particular issue, and to hold them accountable for the duties they are entrusted to perform for the benefit of the community, such as ensuring the supply of potable water. It is also essential to discuss the issue at hand by engaging with all the relevant parties, including officials. This means really listening to their views and trying to understand their attitudes.

2. Keep the community informed throughout as to what is happening. Be transparent with regard to all processes. It may at times be necessary to seek new mandates.

3. Transparency and effective planning in relation to financial matters are also of great importance. People should know what the financial implications of a course of action may be.

4. Legal proceedings should only be used as a last resort. In the Somchem affair we did our best to negotiate a settlement out of court through arbitration rather than court proceedings, but were told that Somchem's indefinite presence was not negotiable.

5. Being involved in a fight with powerful organisations requires persistence in addition to courage.

The small group of people at the centre of the Somchem fight found that huge amounts of time, energy, and financial resources were being consumed in the battle. It was at times difficult to keep going. A turning point was reached when Denis Cowen suggested in court that Somchem put its best offer officially on the table and a referendum be held in Rooiels as to whether to accept it or go on with litigation. Though initially resisted by Somchem's counsel in court, Somchem agreed to formulate its official best offer. The acceptance of this offer by the community in a referendum supervised by the Administrator started a process of negotiation which led, a few years later and after much further work, to the termination of their presence, years before what was envisaged in their official offer. Somchem's acknowledgement that the soil had been polluted by their activities was followed by the realization that they were not welcome in the area. They apologised handsomely, and did much to rehabilitate the test sites, with great success.

6. Once an issue has been resolved, the "winners" and "losers" should try to move on in such a way that current issues can be dealt with on their merits, without the intrusion of patterns of previous conflict. A respected adversary on one matter may well become a valued ally on another, and the community will be healthier.

In consequence of the latest political change, tiny Rooiels is yet again part of a huge municipal structure, the Overstrand Municipality.

In our situation, it is of the utmost importance that we all take an informed, sensible, and as far as possible united stand on issues that affect us all.

JEAN AND DENIS COWEN

DIE ONTSTAAN VAN DIE REBV 30 JAAR GELEDE

OOM SKAKEL KRIEK VERTEL

OOM SKAKEL KRIEK WAS EEN VAN ROOIELS SE EERSTE INWONERS. IN 1957 KOOP HY 'N ERF OP ROOIELS VIR 83 POND EN LATER NOG 'N ERF VIR 300 POND. HY IS IN 1998 OP DIE OUDERDOM VAN 93 JAAR OORLEDE. HY EN DIE BEKENDE DRAMATURG PIETER FOURIE HET DIE ROOIELS BELASTINGBETALERSVERENIGING IN 1972 OP DIE BEEN GEBRING. IN 1996 HET OOM SKAKEL AS VOLG VERTEL OOR DIE TOTSTANDKOMING VAN DIE REBV:

Die Vereniging het in 1972 tot stand gekom nadat inwoners gevoel het dat hulle 'n organisasie behoort te he wat namens hulle kan optree in aangeleenthede wat hul belange raak.

Die drastiese verhoging van die watertarief, weens die hoe koste verbonde aan 'n groter toevoer van water na Rooiels was een van die sake wat die inwoners ontstel het. Alhoewel die maatskappy wat die eerste erwe verkoop het, gesorg het dat daar water aangele is, het die toevoer weens die aanwas van die inwoners begin tekortsiet. Die inwoners het gevoel dat die nuwe tarief te hoog was. Hulle het ook gemeen dat nuwe intrekkers 'n groter geldelike bydrae behoort te lewer.

Daar was ook praatjies oor die regering se beoogde kuspadd wat teen die hang van Klein-Hangklip (Harold Porter-Ryiaan) gebou sou word vir groot en vinnige verkeer. Die pad sou so naby sommige inwoners se huise onderkant die pad gebou word, dat hul privaatheid geskend sou word deur die verkeerslawaaai.

Ook die sanderige paaie, waar talle motors al vasgeval het en die moontlikheid van onderverdeling van erwe, het besorgdheid gewek.

Hierdie en ander aangeleenthede het daartoe gelei dat Pieter Fourie, Carlos Sabbe (die eiendomsagent) en Skakel Kriek 'n vergadering bele het waar die stigting van 'n vereniging bepreek is. Die vergadering is by Pieter Fourie se huis gehou. Skakel Kriek is as voorsitter en Pieter Fourie is as sekretaris verkies.

Die vergadering het eenparig besluit dat 'n vereniging waaraan almal, sowel erfeienaars as inwoners behoort, gestig moet word. Die voorsitter is versoek om 'n konstitusie op te stel wat op die volgende vergadering voorgele en goedgekeur is.

Die eerste bestuur het dadelik aan die werk gespring om die samewerking van die verskillende owerhede te verkry. Pieter Fourie moes die Afdelingsraad inlig dat die vereniging verteenwoordigend van die inwoners van Rooiels was en die erkenning van die vereniging verkry. Pieter, wat bekwaam en baie gewild was, het selfs die vergaderings van die Raad bygewoon wanneer sake rakende Rooiels bispreek is. Skakel Kriek het skakeling met die Administrateur en die Uitvoerende Komitee van die Provinsie bewerkstellig.

So het dit gekom dat wyle Frans Conradie, die destydse LUK vir Plaaslike Bestuur en die Provinsiale Padingenieur afgesien het van die plan om die pad teen Klein-Hangklip se hang te bou, terwyl die Afdelingsraad deur middel van gruis die strate rybaar gemaak het waardeur die vasvally tot 'n einde gekom het. Die vereniging was ook suksesvol om die onderverdeling van die Forrer plaas (nou Erf 324) teen te staan. Die jaarvergadering het die bestuur se optrede goedgekeur en eenparig besluit dat geen erf onderverdeel word nie.

ROOIELS (VIR OOM SKAKEL)

Waar die suikerbos wit teen die Klein Hangklip wei
sit ek somers windgat en winters bly!
Maar taaibos en tolbos loop uitgedos
Waar die suid-oos dink hy's tokkelos!

Pieter Fourie
Uittreksel uit gedig in Die Burger 3 April 1976



'N MENS KAN 'N HELD WEES, OOK SONDER OM DIE AARDE TE VERWOES.

NICOLAS BOILEAU-DESPRÉAUX (1636 -1711)

ROOIELS IN THE DARK AGES BEFORE ELECTRICITY

Do you remember the exciting times when the possibility of electricity was first mentioned and later tested in a referendum? We lobbied, we aired our views and argued forcefully one way or the other. I was one of the greenies so much against electricity, but was humbled when all our gas equipment gave up the ghost that December and we ended being the first of all our neighbours to convert totally to electricity!

Our gravest concern at that time was what the bright lights would do to the pastoral atmosphere of Rooiels. And those fears have gradually become realities. More and more homes now have powerful outside lights which light up not only the immediate vicinity of the house, but a very generous supply for a much larger area, especially the roads.

Have you taken an evening stroll through the village and ended up having to shield your eyes from the glaring light of a house in order not to trip? When last could you sit on your stoep in the dark and not be troubled by the bright lights generated by a house nearby? Have you had to close the bedroom curtains because light from someone else's house shines in and disturbs your rest? Rooiels is fast beginning to look just like any other suburb at night, especially over weekends and during school holidays. Who ever though that light pollution could become a problem here at Rooiels?

ANUTA SCHOLZ

LET'S KNOCK LIGHT POLLUTION LIGHTS OUT!



DIE ROOIELS BOOTKLUB IS IN 1995 DEUR DIE REBV GESTIG OP VERSOEK VAN DIE MUNISIPALITEIT WAT NIE LANGER IN STAAT WAS OM DIE GLIPWEG TE ONDERHOU EN DIE GEPAARDGAANDE PROBLEME TE BESTUUR NIE. 'N KONSTITUSIE IS OPGETREK EN DEUR DIE MUNISIPALITEIT FORMEEL GOEDGEKEUR.

EARLY BEGINNINGS OF THE BOAT CLUB

My first boating experience was sobering stuff. I was introduced to a yacht trapeze by my father, more avid than skilled in the art, but a surgeon who could tie a mean knot. So when he said to me in Bligh-like fashion, to get myself out on the trapeze double-quick and not to worry about the steel trace that my life depended on because it could land a 500kg marlin never mind a light sprite like me, I believed him. For a microsecond. Then I hit the water at speed. "Man-overboard" was a regular ditty on our boat, so the smooth recovery of bedrugged boy went off as well as any frequently practiced manoeuvre should.

When I was asked in about 1994 by the then RERA committee to take over the infant REBC from Rob Fryer, who neither owned nor wanted a boat and is probably allergic to crayfish and gets seasick, little did they know what a seasoned man at sea I was. Capt Bligh is in my blood and boats with engines that only went a few miles offshore and didn't require trapeze artists seemed an adequately unchallenging idea. In fact I think I can claim to be first owner of an inflatable boat in Rooiels.

In about 1983 I bought a very small inflatable called a Guppi I, about 3m long. I then bought a second-hand 5hp Seagull. This innovative 'rig' (a boatie's term covering everything to do with their craft including the tow/launch vehicle), worked well up to 100m offshore on a perfect day and I used it for scouting perlemoen. My second boat, a Guppi II, was acquired when Guppi I got too small for my growing kids. A little bigger with a 10hp Yamaha and the faithful Seagull. It got wrecked in a northwesterly gale while 200m onshore when it blew off my roof rack, but a replacement was with us in days, courtesy of insurance. To-day inflatables have become the rage, but back then I drew a crowd on a good day, as I pumped Guppi I up on the old small slipway.

Having been the chairman for 5 years during which time decals were introduced for members to display, I quite properly am the proud owner of the No:1 decal of the REBC's growing membership of about 70 members. We have a good mixture of members. There are Hans Els, Charlie Simonz, Johannes Visser and Manie Niewoudt in their state-of-the-art rigs. Then there are traditionalists like Albie Stals, Paul Zwick and Andre Wagener in glass fibre bakkies like their fathers owned, who actually fish out of them. And then we have a few intrepid daredevils like Kit du Plessis, Philip Wagner and Andries Brink. But most of us are just regular boys and girls with small inflatables who feed our families under extreme duress every Xmas.

DIARMUID BAIGRIE

WHY ROOIELS?

BEING THE CHOICE...

The wind-tossed peninsula of Rooiels offers a tenuous home to the enthralling biodiversity of fynbos the flora, the fauna and, among the latter, man.

In our self-satisfied moods, we believe that we have selected Rooiels as our holiday resort, our recreational or retirement home.

Yet another visage of Rooiels is possible a glimpse of the Rooiels spirit that chooses the flora and fauna that finds comfort and sustenance within its borders.

The refrain is sounded by those who have had homes here for many years and from newcomers "We knew this was where we wanted to be, the recognition of not having a choice, *but being the choice.*"

To outsiders, the selection of a home at Rooiels is rationalised in terms of magnificent views, peace and quiet, closeness to Cape Town and in many other practical pragmatic, business terms.

Yet behind this verbal curtain, is an element of passion, of unfettered love for the wild north-west storms that lash the bricks and mortar with the thrashing energy of a winter sea against the shoreline.

The grit-laden south easter tests our patience with the force of its blow and bluster, belabouring even the most sturdy outdoor lover. And when we know it can blow no longer, it gathers its craggy bellows for a last triumphant blast.

The quiet of the next windless day at Rooiels is a gentle caress, days of luxurious indolent carefreeness. Of being young and youthful, despite age and infirmity, of being beautiful and bountiful despite acrimony and dispute, of being as different as genetic diversity yet being the same merely transitory serfs of a spirit named Rooiels...

JULIAAALBERS

AL TRAP JY HOE AL LOOP JY VER
SEDOOS DIE WAAI JOU SPORE DOOD
DIE MAAN SKYN MOOI HOOG BLINK DIE STER
MAAR JA JOU SPORE WAAI TOG DOOD
AL DIG JY FYN AL RYM JY SLEG
SEDOOS DIE WAAI JOU WOORDE WEG
MENS DINK SOMS HY IS WIE WEET WAT
SEDOOS SKEP HOM EN HY IS WEG

BOERNEEF

DAAROM ROOI ELS

Dit was winter. Alles was nat. Die koue het deur my voete in my bene opgekrui en die laaste hitte in my murg verys. Die klein houthuisie, half-verdrink in die reën-sonder-einde, was nie instaat om warmte te skep nie, die argitek het vergeet om die vuurherd in te teken.

Ek het gekom om die los rafels van my stukkende lyf te probeer terugvleg, om die skeure in my siel toe te stop. My asem, vlak en onegally, vol van die reuk van ou stadsverkeer.

Dit was op die derde dag, net voor dou, na dertien ure se slaap, dat ek verenig is in 'n lewenslange verbintenis, 'n sprakelose verslawing aan stilte, storms en skoon strate

Dit was eers die vrede wat met huiwerende hand, my liggaam toegevou het. My wese het saggies ontdooi. En toe, nadat ek vir die eerste keer in jare weer kon sien, het die ruheid van vele rotse, stadig maar beslis, strome energie in my stom lyf geplant. Die skuim van die branders, meters hoog, het die baie leemtes gevul en my verhongerde buik versadig.

Ek het skielik weer geglo, met die onskuld van 'n kind, dat koggelmanders en paddavissies die reën voorspel. En die sterre deur die nag-engele omhoog gehou word. Die heelal skep ruimte, vir die wat heel is en vir die wat gebroke is.

Met my pienk sokkies en my broer se jas, het ek die strate begin stap, tussen poele en sproei, opsoek na my eie erf.

Vier-en-twintig uur later, het ek nuwe lewensbakens ingekap, tussen my eie rooi rotse en my eie immergroen fynbos. My hawe was geskep. Die stryd gestry.

MARTHIE HATTINGH



EVETTE, GERHARD EN MARTHIE

OM HIER IN DIE PARADYS TE WOON

Van kleins af was ek lief vir die wilde plekke van die aarde, plekke wat nog aan hulselwers behoort, en hier bly ek nou sowaar in die paradys. Om hier te woon is elementaal, naby die grond, rots en see. Wind en son is altyd 'n faktor waarvoor mens jou oë en ore spits. Jagters-instinkte word hier wakker en geslyp, al is dit net om op die uitkyk te wees vir die skugter steenbokkie of om te weet wanneer die slim bobbejane jou wil uitoorlé.

Ons woon so in die bek van die weer hier en sien letterlik hoe die koue fronte nader kom, reuse donker wolkbanke wat van agter die horison uitbeweeg. Hier kyk mens maklik 13 keer per dag tot doer ver anderkant die horison, verby drome. Die Suidoos laat ons diep asemhaal, skoon lug reguit uit die suidpool. En ons woon beslis ver weg van die konseptuele ruimte wat mens by uitstek bewoon in die stad.

"..maar die branders is baie hoër hier
en die wildernis en woestyn veel nader
aan die lyf
daar is min verfyning
geen konings wat oor beskawings treur
en die enigste grimeersel is die wit blind
van die dood"

(Breyten Breytenbach)

Dan leef ons boonop hier tussen die oer Mimetes plante (wat van voor die ystydperk kom, voor plante blomme gemaak het) en die rare mikropaddas (15mm lank) wat so volkeels sing na die rëen. Die luiperd maak sy naels skerp teen die bome teen Klein Hangklip en snags loop hy deur ons drome. Arende leer hulle onbehendige jongelinge vlieg in ons nabyheid en die nuuskierige otters ry baldadig op die branders.

In sy dokumenter, "Planet in Crises", sonder die befaamde natuurkenner, David Attenborough, die Kaapse fynbos uit vir haar ongelooflike diversiteit. Op 'n stuk grond so groot soos 'n rugbyveld kan spesies voorkom wat nerens elders op die planeet voorkom nie. Uit ons 7,000 inheemse plantspesies (van die Kaapse planteryk) is daar meer as 5,000 wat nerens elders in die wereld voorkom nie. Ons grootste vyande in die biosfeer is die indringerplante wat ons fynbos doodsmoor, of die onkunde en onverskilligheid van mense wat die natuur verniel

Attenborough sê ook dat 50% van die wêreld se spesies deur die mens binne die volgende eeu uitgewis kan word. Sjoel! Eina otter! Koes muskeljaatkat! Klou vas perlemoen! Askies Oestervanger! Totsiens skilpad.

Nee wat, mnr Attenborough! Hier in die biosfeer trap ons ligter op die aarde want ons leef in 'n paradys en sien die skoonheid in die kleinste plantjie raak. Glo my, hier koester ons ons natuur erfenis.

EVETTE WEYERS

IN PAST CENTURIES THE SPECIES CONSIDERED THE MOST DANGEROUS IN THE WORLD INCLUDED THE LION, THE TIGER, AND THE CROCODILE, SINCE THE 20TH CENTURY THERE IS UNCONTESTEDLY ONLY ONE- MAN.

BEWARING, HOEKOM?

Die tweede kunsuitstalling in klei, vesel, verf, fotos, plantmateriaal en metaal deur 8 biosfeerkunstenaars word 23-27 Desember gehou by Perspicuaweg 260. Wees daar!

EXHIBITION: WHY CONSERVATION?

The second art exhibition in clay, fibre, photographs, floral art, plant material and metal by 8 biosphere locals will be held 23-27 December at 260 Perspicua Road. Be there!

JUST IN FROM NOMA AWARDS COMMITTEE DINE DOES IT AGAIN!

Dine van Zyl has just received an Honourable Mention for her book "Slagoffers" at the 2002 Noma Awards, an international competition held in Cambridge, England. According to the Jury "the novel convincingly portrays the sufferings of women during the chaos of the war. Its importance lies in exposing the violent history, not least in Afrikaans, a language not often used to recount atrocities suffered by Africans." The Jury considered the writer to have distinctive potential and the book itself was of the kind likely to spread reading in Africa.

MAGIC MOMENTS...

SOLAR SLIDES

Baboon youngsters, those that can be considered the counterparts of the human pre-teens, can show much ingenuity in devising forms of amusement.

A while ago, a group of some five or six of them discovered that my roof-mounted solar panels, at an angle of 45 degrees, provided a very entertaining slide. In turn, each of the group mounted a panel, released its grip at the top edge and slid the panel's length before scampering up the roof to rejoin the queue for another turn.

This interlude in the routine scavenging for sustenance obviously was appreciated greatly.

MIKE HARRISON



SEE-KAT

Die swart 4x4 brul in 'n stofwolk tot stilstand. Ericas en proteas lê verbrysel onder die "extra-radial" bande. Bokant die CFR nommerplaat staan in wit letters geverf "Kat".

Hierdie ou laat Rambo soos 'n sissie lyk. Sy spiere bult onder sy duikpak. Gewapen met duikmes en spiesgeweer, stap die groot jagter van die see met brawade deur die branders...

Skaars enkele minute later storm hy paniekbevange uit die water, land toe. Holderstebolder, asof daar 'n diepsee-monster agter hom aan is.

"Help my! Iemand help my asseblief!" roep hy met 'n bewerige stemmetjie.

Ek hardloop nader, dalk is die man deur 'n haai aangeval of iets. Hy swaar sy arm wild rond.

'n Klein seekatjie klou soos 'n polshorlosie om sy gewrig.

"Toemaar," paai ek. "Dis net 'n baba seekat, hy sal niks maak nie."

Ek maak die seekatjie versigtig los. Rambo kan nie vinnig genoeg wegkom nie. Van Rooiels se see wil hy nooit weer hoor nie.

Ek neem die seekat terug water toe. Die seekat gee my vir oulaas so 'n snaakse, ondeunde kyk, voordat hy onder 'n rots induik. En vir 'n milli-sekonde, kon ek wragtig sweer hy knipoog vir my...

FRANK RAYMOND

IF THE EARTH WERE ONLY A FEW FEET IN DIAMETER, FLOATING A FEW FEET ABOVE A FIELD SOMEWHERE, PEOPLE WOULD COME FROM EVERYWHERE TO MARVEL AT IT.

PEOPLE WOULD WALK AROUND IT MARVELLING AT ITS BIG POOLS OF WATER, THE LITTLE POOLS AND THE WATER FLOWING BETWEEN.

PEOPLE WOULD MARVEL AT THE BUMPS ON IT AND THE HOLES IN IT. THEY WOULD MARVEL AT THE VERY THIN LAYER OF GAS SURROUNDING IT AND THE WATER SUSPENDED IN THE GAS.

THE PEOPLE WOULD MARVEL AT THE CREATURES WALKING AROUND THE SURFACE OF THE BALL AND ALL THE CREATURES IN THE WATER. THE PEOPLE WOULD DECLARE IT AS SACRED BECAUSE IT WAS THE ONLY ONE, AND THEY WOULD PROTECT IT SO THAT IT WOULD NOT BE HURT.

JOE MILLER

BIRD CHAT

It's THAT time of year again! As air-conditioned shopping malls echo to the "civilised" sounds of canned carols, querulous children, hurried footsteps and frayed tempers, the moody occasionally malevolent South-Easter returns to remind us all that the season of plenty, giving and receiving is truly upon us. So sit back, enjoy, fill the glass and don't say when!

This resident "Bird" notes it's a time when Rooi Els is invaded by varied migrational birds. These assorted species take to unique forms of behaviour patterns rarely observed in their native habitats. It's a time interesting plumage. The necessity to bathe repeatedly in salt water is greatly increased by the habitual ducking of siblings, perhaps an example of the Cain and Abel syndrome, beneath the waves. There is a noted increase in song volume, with a pronounced accent on trilling and screeching, allied to a sharp rise in warning calls. These may be related to "muscle flexing" or territorial displays. Sadly certain of these individuals are subject to a congenital plumage defect that manifests itself in a vermilion hue spreading all over the whole or part of the body. Concentrations are likely on the crown (lesser flamingo), the facial area (red-faced mousebird) and back (pink-backed pelican). The over-lapping of wings creates a variety of criss-cross patterns on the usually monotonal breast (white bellied sunbird).

A sector of this motley group visibly glint in the morning sun. This is the direct result of the heavy application of preening oil (glossy ibis). The adult male often has a tendency to receding head plumage (bald ibis), while the adult female's lip salve gives a highlighted bill that usually clashes violently with the plumage (either the common or orangebreasted waxbill). This is not the case with them all, some are prone to topless displaying (scarlet chested sunbird) which often gets them into hot water with the older resident females, otherwise known as the famous grouse.

The biggest nuisance of our summer visitors is the cuckoo. All varieties of this taxonomic group parasite other nests. So adept are they at this that they fool the host birds into accepting and rearing their offspring by cleverly disguising their eggs in the same colour and markings of the host. This is all made possible by pre-festive lunches full of the good things in life. Once installed the said chick will literally rule the roost, often evicting the natural progeny by making excessive demands of the frazzled parent birds. Always be wary of this dysfunctional bird in your midst!

On a more pleasant note there is our own resident marijuana bird. Also known as a grassbird, it is a song bird of some note and usually heard and seen making overtures to the sunset and singing the virtue of Creation. The yellow bishop now more correctly called the yellow-rumped widow (just how one goes from being a bishop to a widow is of course another story and not for publication in a family periodical!)- has been defrocked of his splendid plumage after several months of procreation and adopted a drabber habit presumably due to exhaustion.

Other notable species are the gannet known locally as the "Castle" bird whose capacity for the amber liquid can and does result in diverse and unpredictable behaviour. It may become a sociable weaver after some sessions. Excess can result in difficult and unfriendly incidents, fights are not uncommon and the thick-billed weaver can make quite a spectacle of himself.

The bronze mannikin and sunbird strut their stuff along the waves attracting numerous females with their familiar chat. They tend to specialize in the sunbird and tit family groups and anyone game for a lark.

On a serious note there can be a lot of robin about at this time of year, so it is very important to be vigilant and take it in turns to stork any suspicious characters.

May your holiday be well-spirited, hugely pleasurable and free from the constraints of the daily grind. Enjoy the biosphere and our unique habitat. After a glass or six, who knows, you may soar with the eagles - shame about the turkeys!

Happy-hic-birding!

ALISON AYRE

USE A PATH; SAVE A DUNE!

BE BABOON-WISE: SHARE YOUR SPACE, NOT YOUR FOOD!

WOORDE IN DIE WIND

LOUIS ESTERHUIZEN

Woorde in die Wind is vir die mense van Rooiels en hul gaste. Dis hier waar ons die Afrikaanse letterkunde voel die klank en die ritme daarvan. Ons laaste byeenkoms was aan huis van Pierre en Louise du Toit, en ons het die wonderlike ervaring gehad om na Louis Esterhuizen te luister, wat uit gepubliseerde en ongepubliseerde werk voorgelees het.

Hy het ook die uitdaging aanvaar om 'n gedig oor Rooiels te skryf maar hy moes dit binne vyf minute doen. Sommer net daar; op die plek.

Hy het by die tafel gaan sit en met intense konsentrasie losgetrek en binne twee minute was die gedig klaar. (Sien langsaan).

Ek het ook baie goeie nuus. Prof. Fransjohan Pretorius, die wêreldkenner van die Anglo-Boereoorlog wat verantwoordelik was vir verskeie publikasies oor die Boereoorlog en ook vir die televisiereeks *Verskroeiende Aarde*, het bevestig dat hy ons kom toespreek op Saterdag 4 Januarie. Hier, op Rooiels. Hou die kennisgewingbord dop vir besonderhede.

DINE VAN ZYL

MEMORIES AND MAGIC MOMENTS

You're invited to participate.

During the December holidays, The Rooiels Ratepayers' Association is holding a fun Photographic Exhibition to celebrate 30 years of its existence.

All who have a passion for Rooiels and its unique character, are invited to share their photographs of Rooiels through the years and attend the exhibition.

Everyone, young and old, amateur or professional may participate. We would like to borrow your interesting photographs which may cover every subject and aspect of the Rooiels Village and its people.

Please label your photograph with your name and address, (erf number at Rooiels if applicable), and a short description to tell the story behind the picture, if necessary.

Contact Debby de Vries at 028 2738037 or e-mail to rooiels@isat.co.za We would like to have all contributions by 10 December 2002. The exhibition will be at 239 Rocklands Road and will run from Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 December.

...DIE AARDE IS DEUR 'N DIGTER GEMAAK

TT CLOETE (UIT 'GOD DIE DIGTER')



ROOIELS

BY ROOIELS
IS DIE KUSLYN GEBROKE, IS DIE ROTSE
GEPUNTE TANDE TEEN DIE BREEK
VAN LIG EN SAND
DIE BRANDERS 'N SKUIMTROP WILDE DIER
IN GALOP BY SKITTERHUISE
TUSSEN BOS VERBY

BY ROOIELS
STAAAN KLEIN-HANGKLIP SKUINSVERLATE
DIE EENKANT GENOOT
VAN HOOP EN BAKEN
EEUE DEUR, 'N MUUR VAN KLIP
WAT SELFS DIE GERINGSTE MENS
EN BLOM

BESKUT

WANT HIER, UITGELEWER AAN WIND
UITGELEWER AAN DIE TIER VAN REËN
EN SLIERT: HIER, TUSSEN BOS EN KLIP

DIE KLEIN BEDAGTE BAAI VAN BEHOUD
DIE INHAMME VAN SAMESYN

LANGS 'N KUSLYN SÓ GEBROKE
TUSSEN DIE ROTSE GEPUNT AS TAND
TEEN DIE BREEK VAN KLIP EN SAND.

LOUIS ESTERHUIZEN
5 OKTOBER 2002

FROGGING ABOUT: PART 1

For anyone interested in fynbos ecology, late winter to spring is probably the most exciting time of the year, and it is hardly possible to visit the Rooiels Nature Reserve during this transition of seasons without encountering frogs - or at least hearing them. Twenty-one frog species inhabit the Kogelberg coast and hinterland and this is the most diverse area in the Cape provinces. Seventeen of these species are restricted to Southern Africa, more species than anywhere else, making this arguably the most interesting frog spot in the sub-continent. In one sense Rooiels falls in a 'frog shadow' of Klein Hangklip and does not share this diversity. Mountain shoulders tumble to the sea all around and squeeze out the large vleis and coastal-plain wetlands which are home to so many species around Betty's Bay and Kleinmond. By comparison the small wetland in the Rooiels Reserve boasts a modest total of six frog species, but the deficit in species numbers is compensated by individual abundance and choral volume.

Of the six species recorded in the reserve, three are rather special in that they occur in very few residential areas. These three, the Banded Stream Frog, the Cape Mountain Rain Frog and Villiers' Chirping Frog, are very susceptible to development, especially to changes in drainage. All three are restricted to montane fynbos and the last species is found only in the Boland mountains. The reserve is also one of few places where these species may be heard calling by the sea. The remaining three species, the Clicking Stream Frog, the Common Caco and the Cape River Frog, are less fussy in their requirements and occur very generally, but are an integral part of the reserve choir.

Chief among the choristers is the Clicking Stream Frog, *Strongylopus grayii*, a widely distributed species in temperate South Africa from the Cape lowlands to the north-eastern highveld. In many Rooiels erfs and especially in the reserve wetland near the koppie, clicking stream frogs form a continuous aural background from March to November. Each individual male frog makes a simple, single 'toc' but with hundreds performing in combination this sound is transformed into that of a bamboo forest in uncertain breeze, at times hesitant or stopping altogether, at others a waxing pastiche of unpredictable rhythms and waves. Some few individuals, intermingled with the "tocs", make a high pitched squeak which might serve as a warning to other males infringing on their personal space. You might easily see a Clicking Stream Frog, with its moderately long, barely webbed toes, while walking along the reserve paths but to trace a calling individual is a different matter. As you approach the chorus falls silent, or at least maintains a circle of silence around you while more distant individuals entice you to search elsewhere. Clicking Stream Frog tadpoles can grow up in virtually any temporary pool, and the adults often lay their eggs on damp sand in anticipation of later rains. Adult frogs are around 40 mm in length, long-legged and ever ready to leap away at the first sign of inquisitive larger creatures. They have the "typical" frog-shape that is generally depicted in drawings. This species is so variably patterned that it is difficult to give any easy hints on identification, although there are some themes. All individuals have discontinuous raised ridges along the back; most have cross bands on the legs; some have spotted backs whereas others carry a broad vertebral stripe. There is usually a dark mask through the eye and the colour of the back and sides varies from dark browns and greys to rufous and tan.

The other common frog around Rooiels is the Cape Mountain Rain Frog, *Breviceps montanus*, which is only present in the fynbos biome. On overcast, misty or rainy days between April - November, and occasionally at other times, their high pitched mournful whistle "weeeep" may be heard from anywhere on the slopes around Rooiels. In the reserve itself rainfrogs prefer the area around the Koppie, but the best choruses can be heard from higher up on the slopes of Klein Hangklip. Individuals call intermittently, with others taking up the cue from another direction, creating an acoustic mosaic and confusing those questing for frogs. Sometimes Rain Frogs may be encountered on trails or in gardens; of stranger beasts there are but few! Rain Frogs permanently carry a disgruntled expression, giving a disturbing resemblance to Winston Churchill. In comparison to related species the Cape Mountain Rain Frog is quite lithe and slender. In comparison to any other frog around Rooiels this species has the shape of a moderately compressed ping pong ball, a resemblance which is improved by their habit of puffing themselves into a sphere when confronted by situations of potential oppression, giving rise to their Afrikaans name Blaasoppies. Rain Frogs are around 30 mm long, they have squat legs, squat arms and stubby little fingers. In fact, they are so generally round and short limbed that they must forgo the usual frog mating position, with males gripping females around the body. Instead Rain Frog males glue themselves by their chests to the back of a female, and both endure the indignity of this long nuptial negotiation. Rain Frogs are also unusual in their mode of development. Unlike most other frogs this species is entirely independent of water pools and excavates an underground chamber for its eggs. The eggs are large and perform the function of a crèche: instead of tadpoles, small froglets emerge directly from the egg. From a distance these froglets resemble button-shaped beetles, a resemblance strengthened by the fact that their short limbs preclude hopping: this species waddles. Aside from all these unusual features, Cape Mountain Rain Frogs also wear a black mask stripe from behind their eye and have a yellowish-tan back often outlined with a darker purple-brown scalloped blotch on either side. Their entire skin is textured with fine granulations, and their belly is light tan with scattered dark markings coalescing onto a dark throat. The Cape Mountain Rain Frog is a true montane fynbos endemic and one of the species that makes Rooiels unique.

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM & KATE HENDERSON

Both authors are keen naturalists and are working on frog projects at present. Kate is finishing an MPhil in Environmental Management at Stellenbosch University. Michael is a researcher at Pretoria University working on a WWF-SA Table Mountain Fund project on Conservation and Genetic Diversity of Cape Fold Mountain frogs and lizards. They have been "frog-atlassing" in the area for some years and both have a special interest in the Kogelberg.

LIVE AND LET LIVE! (EVEN IF THEY ARE SNAKES)

Being scared of snakes is not unusual. Even a young dog (who was certainly never warned about snakes by his parents and who hasn't read any text books) seems to know instinctively that a snake demands respect. But all too often the snake that gets dispatched for trespassing into our lives is no 'cold-blooded killer' but a harmless and useful passer by!

Like sharks, snakes have a bad reputation. The facts, however, tell a different story... Of the 130 species of snakes in South Africa, only 34 (26%) are venomous at all, and many of those are less toxic than a wasp or bee sting! Only 14 species have ever killed a human being. SA stats revealed that in 1986 over 10 000 people died in road accidents... 2 000 died as a result of smoking... 220 were killed by lightning... and \pm 10 died from a snakebite!

Why so few deaths from snakes? Because poisonous snakes only employ their venom to stun or kill prey... or in self-defense. They are generally shy and afraid of humans. Most will glide away at the first vibration of our footsteps "What about the Puff Adder?" you say.

"It doesn't get out of your way". Correct. A Puff Adder is slow and sluggish. Its whole life strategy is to lie so still and so well camouflaged that a passing snake or mouse doesn't notice... until it's too late! When you come along it lies motionless hoping you won't spot him. Get too close, and it gives a warning hiss. But step on it and you've given it no option but to defend itself!

Instead of killing everything that slithers because it *might* be poisonous, it makes better sense to be able to identify the venomous snakes typical to the area in which you live, (this is also essential to ensuring the correct anti-venom is administered in case of a serious bite!) Snakes actually control the snake population, so for your peace of mind every snake should be left in peace to go its way, fulfilling its role in ecology!

If you have children, teach them to be aware of snakes and their habits, to respect them and to leave them alone! If a child sees or hears of an adult killing a snake they can get the impression that it's what *should* be done. The next thing is a snake that would have peacefully disappeared is now aggravated and possibly dangerous!

Here in Rooiels we should know and be able to identify:
The Puff Adder. 70-90+cm. Thick, with a large, triangular head. Yellow-brown with dark, speckled chevron pattern on the back and pale belly. They swim, bask in warm places during the day and take cover at dusk to ambush prey, which includes rodents, other snakes and birds. Mating takes place in spring with litters of 20-40 young born late summer. Bites are common but few prove fatal, however 60% of all serious bites and the most snakebite fatalities in southern Africa are from Puff Adders. The venom is cytotoxic, often causing extreme pain and swelling which can lead to kidney failure. Treat a victim for fluid loss and with anti-venom if serious. When milked a venom yield of 100-135 mg is usual; 100mg is fatal in humans.

The Cape Cobra. 120-150cm. Slender with a broad head and smooth but dull scales. Colour can vary but mostly dirty-yellow to brown, sometimes with darker and paler flecks. They are active during the day and early evening, feeding on prey that includes rodents and other snakes. It will spread its hood to look threatening, but does not spit or spray. The venom is neurotoxic, requiring large amounts of antivenom to be administered urgently before paralysis sets in. This species is responsible for the most fatalities in the Cape. The average venom yield is 120 mg, 15-20 is fatal in humans.

The Boomslang. 120-150 cm. Boomslangs are grey as juveniles. Adult females are light olive/brown with pale to brown bellies. Males have many colour phases and could be bright green (or sometimes powder-blue or bright yellow, with black-edged scales) with light green to orange pink belly scales often dark-edged. Most diagnostic are its very large, round pupiled eyes. They hunt by sight, preying on birds and chameleons. If cornered a boomslang will inflate its neck and may strike. Only 1 mg of venom is injected but it is a potent haemotoxin causing haemorrhaging. Symptoms may not develop for 1-2 days.

CHRIS BURLOCK

LIDMAATSKAP OF SKENKINGS

REBV BANKREKENINGNOMMER:

ABSA 29-0016-6152

TAKKODE 334-712

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

MIGRATIONS OF A HUMAN KIND

I have been coming to Rooiels for over ten years now. Every visit is a blessing and I return to Cape Town with regret, always promising myself that I will be back soon. It is hard to draw the curtains, turn off the electricity, the water and the gas and lock the front door. I feel a sense of loss as I back down the driveway and head back to the city lights always wondering what will happen in my absence.

There have been lots of changes over the years. What makes it special is that there is time to notice them. It isn't easy to see the mountain scarred with new houses and fynbos destroyed to make way for new roads but I understand why others also want a bit of the magic of Rooiels. Let's hope that every newcomer discovers the joy of living simply and shares in the responsibility of keeping Rooiels pristine.

I also love reading the Breeze far more interesting than the pile of Time magazines on my bedside table. I have been entertained for years with reports of bird sightings, the antics of our local wild life, descriptions of the fynbos as well as the achievements of other residents.

It occurred to me that one thing that hasn't been widely reported on in the Breeze is the visitors that come to Rooiels and return from whence they came convinced that they have spent time in paradise. I was glancing through my visitors book the other day and realised that all of the comments are from non Capetonians. In the last year visitors have arrived from Calgary, Toronto, New York, Edinburgh and Melbourne not to mention other parts of South Africa. The entries are all over the top! It seems that the universal experience of a stay in Rooiels is a combination of joy and peace that is rarely enjoyed elsewhere. When my visitors return home and send me e-mails they do not refer to startling world events or their busy lives - they ask about Rooiels. Their memories of South Africa are filled with the golden and often windy moments spent watching sunsets and the restless seas.

Let's keep a collective record of visitors to Rooiels. We will probably discover that they come from far and wide and would love to migrate to this part of the world on an annual basis. We all know that our little share of this planet is one of the world's greatest secrets. It would be a reminder of our good fortune in being able to come back whenever we want.

RUTH MATTISON

DAAR IS MENSE WAT DIE AARDE 'N LEEFTYD
BEWANDEL EN DIT NOOIT KEN NIE.

HENNIE AUCAMP

FYNBOSBEWARING DEUR MUSIEK

Die unieke CD, *Fynbos Calling*, wat entoesiasies deur resensente ontvang is, is geproduseer deur Johan Kotze en Hans Huysen. Beide Kotze en Huysen het 'n besondere liefde en waardering deel vir die natuur en veral die fynbos van ons Hangklip omgewing. Dis mense vir wie fynbosbewaring na aan die hart lê.

Die projek is 'n voorbeeld van musici wie se geestelike verantwoordbaarheid in die produkte van hul arbeid manifesteer. En dit is waarom hierdie pronk pakket, wat eerder op koffietafels hoort as in CD-rakke, mens so verryk. In hooftrekke bestaan *Fynbos Calling* uit: Barok en Afrika musiek wat herinner aan die toe die veld veilig en op sy vrolikste was, 'n aantrekklike koffietafel boekie, 64 bladsye van insiggewende artikels met pragtige veldfoto's, 'n 3 minute musiek video in CD Rom formaat, 'n skyfie vertoning van 86 fynbosblomme besigtigbaar op rekenaar, toeganklike musieknotas deur Huysen en skakels na webtuistes handelend oor omgewing en musiek. Wins word ten dele geskenk aan WWF-SA en die Hangklip-Erfenistrust.

Die kompakskyf met 22 snitte (55 minute), waarvan 13 uitvoerings van Barokkomponiste en Huysen komposisies uitgevoer deur Huysen en sy Ensemble Refuguim asook 8 genotvolle Afrika liedjies afkomstig uit Uganda, Zimbabwe en Xhosa-gemeenskap uitgevoer deur Amapondo se Dizu Plaatjies met sy Dizu Kuduhorn Band. Die musiek is uitgevoer op periode-instrumente wat 'n nuuttjie is as Suid Afrikaanse opname. 'n Zimbabwiese liedjie uitgevoer deur Huysen op sy Barok tjello en Plaatjies met sy mbira is 'n ontmoeting tussen Europa en Afrika. Die uitstekende en toeganklike Barok uitvoerings bestaan uit werke van Bach, Telemann asook rare en waardevolle opnames van Ucellini en Kapsperger.

Die artikels deur fynbos fundi's Dave Richardson en Richard Cowling oor onderskeidend fynbos en die bewaring daarvan is besonders informatief. Voorts skryf Dizu Plaatjies oor die genesende vermoëns van musiek en plant. Johan Kotze skryf oor die projek en sy insigte en Hans Huysen 'n boeiende artikel aangaande die 'kultuur van diversiteit'. Dit help om mens se oë oop te maak vir ons uitsonderlike omgewing waarvan die bewaring van 'n deel daarvan in ons eie hande as Rooielsers is.

Met die unieke musiek, informatiewe artikels, fynbos foto's, rekenaar-skyfievertoning en musiekvideo slaag hierdie betowerende pakket om kennis, waardering en bewaring van ons omgewing en fynbos aan te wakker. Dis moontlik die beste Kersgeskenk hierdie jaar en een wat sal help dat die son op ons fynbos bly skyn.

Sien gerus www.afrimusik.com/fynbos. Die CD kos R160 - R180 in winkels met goeie klassieke afdelings.

ANDREAS CLAASSENS

ROOIELS BIOSPHERE ECO-CENTRE

Born from the enthusiasm to create greater awareness of the amazing qualities of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, many dedicated nature-lovers from our community are working feverishly to construct a Biosphere Eco-Centre here in Rooiels. It's a challenging task as a community-created, educational exhibition on the Biosphere is a unique concept...but what makes it even more challenging is the fact that there's no funding!

Jo Hensen has kindly given the project rent-free space next to the Village Shop, and to raise the funding required to build partitions, cabinets and displays, members of the community have donated a host of items to be raffled. Prizes include works of art, hand-crafted bowls, jewelry and lamps, free luxury accommodation, a pedicure, a Thai meal for 4 prepared in your own home, through to an Anglo-Boer War rifle! An exhibition of these prizes will be displayed (along with a scale model of the Eco-Centre) in the Eco-Centre up until the 22 December when the winning ticket numbers will be drawn.

To play your part in this community initiative, please visit the prize exhibition (with all your friends!) and take your pick of raffle tickets...or make a cash donation...and you can still contact Chris Burlock, (028) 273 8278, if you'd like to donate something more to the fund-raising raffle!

SPOEDBULTE

Goedkeuring is verleen vir die oprigting van altesame 21 spoed-kalmeringsmaatreels in Rooiels. Dit gaan bestaan uit 3 formeel- geplaveide spoedbulte, 8 grondspoedbulte en 10 stormsloote wat ook die probleme rondom dreinerings van ons paaie sal aanspreek. Ons het oorleg gepleeg hieroor met die Rooiels Inwonersvereniging, mnr Peter Manuel (verkeershoof) en Raadslid Marilyn van Rensburg en almal is tevrede. Ons wag tans op die beskikbaarstelling van die nodige fondse.

Indien u verdere inligting verlang, kan u 'n kaart waarop die voorgenoemde werk aangedui besigtig deur Debby de Vries te kontak by tel: 028 -2738037

ERF 324

OP SATERDAG 11 JANUARIE OM 2.30 HOU DIE ONTWIKKELAAR SE KONSULTANT 'N VERGADERING IN DIE CRASSULA-SAAL, BETTYSBAAI AS DEEL VAN DIE OPENBARE DEELNAME PROSES.

GEMEENSKAPSENTRUM

Die REBV, Rooiels Bootklub en REIV het onlangs gesamentlik moontlike persele identifiseer wat aangekoop kan word vir die oprigting van 'n meerdoelige permanente Eko-sentrum / gemeenskapsentrum. Voorleggings word in hierdie verband gemaak.

HOU DIE SLANGE UIT DIE PARADYS

ONS LEEF TUSSEN PLANTE

WAT DATEER

VAN VOOR DIE YSTYDPERK....

WAAR DIE NATUUR IN BEHEER IS

EN ONS, SLEGS DIE BEVOOREGTE GASTE

IN 'N KLEIN HOEKIE VAN DIE PLANEET,

AMPER ONAANGERAAK

DEUR MENS LIKE HEBSUG

ONS LOOP SOGGENS

IN VERWONDERING

BY ONS VOORDEUR UIT

EN TREE VERSIGTIG

OM NIE IETS KOSBAAR

TE VERTRAP NIE

TRIX PIENAAR

DANKIE THANK YOU

ONS POSBUS HET VANJAAR WEER OORGELOOP SOOS LIDMAATSKAPGELDE EN DONASIES
INGESTROOM HET...
EN DAN IS DAAR OOK NOG DAARDIE BYDRAES WAT NIE IN GELD-TERME GEMEET KAN
WORD NIE. ELKEEN MAAK OP 'N EIESOORTIGE WYSE TOG 'N VERSKIL.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.
THANK YOU FOR CARING ABOUT ROOIELS.
THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

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Although not co-opted, Geoff Harris (028 273 8164) kept an eye on the **Grootpad/Clarence Drive & Tollroad Developments** and Basil Moss looked after **Roads, Waste Management & Housekeeping**

VISIT/BESOEK: WWW.ROOIELS.ORG.ZA

BRIES KOMITEE: GERARD SCHOLTZ, ESTELLE RAYMOND, CHRIS BURLOCK,
DEBBY DE VRIES EN EVETTE WEYERS

DIE DRUK VAN HIERDIE BRIES IS MOONTLIK GEMAAK DEUR 'N SKENKING VAN
DIE ROOIELS BOOTKLUB.

OUR VISION IS AN ECOLOGICALLY WELL-BALANCED AREA WHERE HUMANS AND NATURE THRIVE
IN HARMONY

ONS VISIE IS 'N EKOLGIES-GEBALANSEERDE GEBIED WAARIN DIE MENS EN DIE NATUUR SAAM IN
HARMONIE KAN GEDY