

Bries Breeze

DESEMBER/DECEMBER 2004

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

EDITORIAL

My eye catches a splash of yellow on the barren mountainside where the fire raged only a few months ago. I wander up the mountain and am amazed. Amazed at the abundance, the resilience and creativity of nature. I lie down among the yellow flowers and see a life pulsing vibrantly around me. A carefully crafted cycle of micro-organisms, flowers and insects all drawing nourishment from sun, rain and soil. There are birds feeding on the insects feeding on the flowers. I watch life creating and sustaining new life. For a moment, I too am part of this. I think about how everything on this earth was made to serve the other, how nothing can exist without the other. Our very lives and the fabric of our bodies are built from others.

When I look at the Breeze, I see reflected in the hearts of Rooielsers an appreciation for the abundance and beauty of our exceptional natural environment. When it comes to issues such as subdivision and creeping suburbia, I see resilience in the way Rooielsers stand to protect of the character of Rooiels. I remember the Rooielsers who have gone before - caring about Rooiels, hacking out aliens, serving passionately on community organisations and local councils. This spirit has become the fabric and building blocks of our community ethos and vision.

It is an ethos and vision which is a creative one, one which is continually fed and enriched through the way we live our lives here. Just like the natural environment, we continuously co-create our community as we find new ways of interacting constructively with one another and of taking responsibility for our actions toward each other and the environment. Responsibility means living more consciously: being respectful towards the beauty of life around us, conscious of the effect we have on one another and mindful of the impact each action may have on the natural environment. So this amazing cycle of nourishment continues - as we take care of Rooiels, it also nourishes and sustains us. Rooiels is a place to honour life - tread lightly, there are many miracles underfoot.

ESTELLE RAYMOND
eraymond@mweb.co.za



"THOSE WHO CONTEMPLATE THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH, FIND RESERVES OF STRENGTH THAT WILL ENDURE AS LONG AS LIFE LASTS"

- RACHEL CARSON

FROM THE CHAIR

TOWARDS DEBATE, DIALOGUE & DISCUSSION - DEVELOPING CONSENSUS IN A COMMUNITY FORUM FOR ROOIELS

At the outset of the year, the RERA Executive agreed that it's major objective for the year was to try to create a community forum that draws in all organisations in the community.

We firmly set our view that debate and dialogue will be central to all our efforts to conserve the Rooiels village and our natural environment. The first forum meeting of community organisations was held towards the end of July and dealt with Rooiels Roads, Walkways & Parking. Facilitated by Chris Burlock, difficult issues were discussed and a consensus view developed by those representing their constituencies.

This matter is now being taken forward by the Overstrand Municipality who has undertaken to engage with all stakeholders prior to setting a municipal policy for Rooiels.

This approach has a number of benefits. Firstly, small organisations are treated equally to larger organisations and have an equal voice in setting the parameters for solving issues. Secondly, the process is accessible to all in the Rooiels community - it is dynamic and benefits from new opportunities as they arise. Thirdly, the municipal structures are engaged with in a progressive partnership manner, encouraging them to reach community needs at a more satisfactory level; rather than berating them for lack of delivery.



THE 2004 RERA EXCO TEAM
FRONT: ROB FRYER (SECR. & ROADS), JULIA AALBERS (CHAIR) SHIRLEY RICHTER (HACKS & FEDERATION)
BACK: JOHN HOFFMAN (CONSERVATION) ANDREAS CLAASSENS (VICE CHAIR & PRO), GRIZELDA HALL (BUILDING) MIKE HARRISON (SMALLHOLDINGS & COUNCIL WATCH)

We believe that this inclusive approach to doing things in Rooiels builds relationships and a sense of community. It is a way of building, rather than breaking down. We believe it is the way forward. So, if you are a RERA member, come to the RERAAGM. If you are not a RERA member, engage with your chosen organisation and show that the process matters.

JULIA AALBERS
CHAIRPERSON RERA
(021) 976-4378

ON THE AGENDA:

FEDERATION OF RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATIONS

NATURE RESERVES

The Federation wants the disbanded Municipal Environmental Advisory Committee resurrected.

KELP HARVESTING

There is concern regarding the manner of kelp harvesting and the exploitation of this resource.

I.D.P AND BUDGET

A copy of the operational budget is available for inspection at the Kleinmond library. The budgetary process is very unwieldy and frustrating for those who have to participate in the process.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Federation would like to see more law enforcement.

ARABELLA PROJECT

The Federation has written to Enviro Africa objecting to Phase 2 of the Arabella project. It has been reported that Phase 2 will consume 266 million litres of water per annum which in turn could supply 29,000 people with water for a year.

KOBIO

Kobio is in need of support so that it can continue its work of protecting our biosphere.

HOUSE LETTING POLICY

The Federation feels that there should be a policy document to guide homeowners when letting their properties.

SHIRLEY RICHTER



VAKANSIEPROGRAM VOL PRET

Rooiels is besig om sy vere reg te skud vir 'n opwindende vakansieprogram. Die Rooiels Belastingbetalers Vereniging (RERA) is hard aan die werk om weer 'n program vir die feestyd te reël. Soos gewoonlik word 'n groot verskeidenheid van aktiwiteite vir al wat leef en beef beplan.

Die feestelikeheid word afgeskop met 'n **Rooiels Wind en Water Gemeenskapsdag** op Saterdag 18 Desember om 17:00 op die grasperk van die Mödingers, erf 372 Lovers Walk. Daar sal Boule (Petanque) en Jukskei gespeel word. Kom wen groot pryse! Hettie Claassens sal sorg vir 'n eg-Spaanse paella wat gratis bedien sal word totdat die vure aangesteek word waar 'n vleisie gebraai kan word. Bring u eie vleis en slaai en kuier lekker saam. Onthou u eie drinkgoed! Dis noodsaaklik om vooraf te bespreek teen R15 per persoon by enige van die Rooiels winkels/besighede.

Op Maandagoggend 20 Desember lei Anuta Scholtz 'n groep na die **Kogelberg Biosfeer Reservaat** om die ongekende skoonheid daarvan te geniet. Ons stap in die hart van die reservaat 'n rustige paar kilometer met die rivierwandelpad tot waar 'n lekker laat ontbytpiekniek uitgepak kan word. Daar is heelwat geleentheid om in die magiese poele van die Palmietrivier te swem. Dus, bring swemklere saam, en trek gemaklike stapskoene of sandale aan. Moenie sonbrandolie en hoedens vergeet nie. Dit is nodig om 'n permit te bekom - bring die beursie ook saam. Ons vertrek om 8:00 met motors vanaf die CBD. Skakel Anuta by 028 273 8539.

Op Woensdag 22 Desember gaan die vriendelike manne van die **Bootklub** weer heeldag gereed staan om mense met hulle bote uit te neem - as die weer saamspeel. Dit is nou vir die Rooielsers wat nooit die geleentheid kry om Rooiels van die see se kant af te sien nie, of om self kreef van 'n boot te trek nie - onthou dus u kreeflisensie. Om dit makliker vir die bootmanne te maak, is dit nodig om vooraf 'n boot te bespreek deur Basil by 028 273 8575 of 083 280 0163 te skakel.

Mense praat steeds van die winskopies wat hulle verlede jaar by die eerste **Wit Olifant Verkoop** gekoop het. Vanjaar reël Elizabeth Moss 'n tweede verkoping. Verlede jaar was daar baie breekgoed, lampe, selfs 'n antieke bedstyl. Krap tuis rond, kyk wat u nie die afgelope jaar gebruik het nie, en skenk dit. Die inkomste gaan om plante vir ons ingang te koop en om dit te verfraai. Dit wat nie verkoop word nie, word aan KAWS geskenk - die Kleinond Diere Welsynsorganisasie. Skakel Elizabeth by 028 273 8575 of 083 280 0163. Sy sal haar garagedeure op 27 en 28 Desember van 17:00 - 18:00 oopsluit



EVETTE VERTEL ONS VAN DIE GEHEIME VAN DIE SEE

Louise du Toit beplan weer 'n besondere kunsuitstalling daaglik tussen 10:00 - 17:00 vanaf 23-30 Desember by haar huis, Perspicuaweg 260, waar kunstenaars van Rooiels hulle werke sal uitstal. Vanjaar se tema is **BRAND/FIRE!** Daar sal beeldhouwerk, fotografie, skilderwerk, blommekunswerk, weefwerk, kralerwerk, juwele en wat nog meer te sien wees wat die vernietigende effek van brand sal uitbeeld, maar ook die herlewing en nuwe groei daarna.

Evette Weyers en Andreas Claassens gaan weer heel bedrywig wees met hulle gewilde See-Werkswinkels. Kom deel in hulle kennis op Dinsdag 28 Desember as hulle meer omtrent die **Lewe in Rotspoele** gaan vertel en wys. Almal ontmoet om 10:00 voor die Drummond Arms vanwaar hulle na die poele sal stap. Op 6 Januarie om 14:30 gaan Evette en Andreas die basiese beginsels van snorkel verduidelik en prakties toepas in hulle nuwe werkswinkel: **Snorkel vir Beginners**. Bring snorkeltoerusting saam en ontmoet hulle by die Ottergatbankie in die Rooiels Natuurreseervaat vir 'n nuwe avontuur. Onthou, veral kinders is welkom.

Die baie belangrike **RERA AGM/REBV AJV** vind op Woensdag 29 Desember om 17:00 plaas aan huis van Nic en Hannah te erf 239, Rocklandsweg. Portefeuljeverslae word gelewer en sake wat u en Rooiels raak word bespreek. Dit is sekerlik u belangrikste afspraak op die jaarlikse Rooiels kalender.

Donderdag 30 Desember behoort aan die kinders. Chris Burlock reël weer 'n **Skattejag**, en in die proses leer die kinders meer omtrent die natuur, die biosfeer en brei hulle hul algemene kennis uit met groot pret. Al die kinders versamel om 11:00 voor die Drummond Arms vanwaar 'n groot avontuur op hulle wag...

(VERVOLG OP BLADSY 4)

HEALTH & HACKITT CLUB

The Health & Hackitt club has had a good year with 10 hacks completed. We have had an average of 12 people participating in our monthly hacks and they have worked magnificently cutting down and stacking piles of alien vegetation for municipal collection.

We have worked on both municipal and private property. In the latter cases we ask for donations to cover the costs of maintaining our equipment. Clearing Erf 64 on Bathers Rd for the Boat Club was a major project and at present we are clearing Jeanette Yeats's property (Erf 123 Gazania Rd) which is full of mature Rooikrans trees and other aliens. Seeing and hearing our chain saw gang of Phillip, Dick, Dairmuid and Gerry swinging into action is quite awesome. The amount of material that they cut down presents hard work for the rest of us who have to drag the bushes and sometimes trees to the roadside.

Whilst working on the CBD and koppie areas Chris Burlock single handedly cleared over a hundred smaller plants and seedlings.

The release of the gall midge and seed beetle seems to have been effective in some areas but in others we still see an abundance of rooikrans seed.

My thanks to you all for your efforts and also to those who supplied refreshments after the hack. I would also like to thank Mr Harding and his department for their speedy clearance of material after the hacks.

We welcome new members so PLEASE COME AND JOIN US. Contact Shirley on 028 2738027 or e-mail ian.richter@za.delarue.com if you would like more information about the hack.

SHIRLEY RICHTER

DIE VAKANSIEPROGRAM (VERVOLG)

En dan is daar die ondervinding van 'n leeftyd. Kom beleef die wonder van die eerste sonstrale van 2005 vanaf **Klein-Hangklip** as die nuwe jaar breek. Die son kom op 1 Januarie om 5:35 op en dan wil Geoff Harris alreeds bo op die kop staan (of sit!) om die wonder en koms van nog 'n jaar te beleef. Die roete wat Geoff volg is nie te moeilik nie en die kop word van agter bestyg, maar goeie stapskoene is noodsaaklik, asook water en natuurlik die kristalglase en die Dom Perignon! ('n Rebel-special sal ook doen.) Vertrek per motor stiptelik om 4:20 vanaf die CBD en skakel Geoff by 028 273 8164 of 082 964 1721 om die beste uitsig te bespreek.

Die bou van **Sandkunswerke** of **Sandkastele**, het al 'n instelling op Tweede Nuwejaarsag op die groot strand van Rooiels geword. Vanjaar is die tema: Seelewe. Enige aspek kan uitgebeeld word. Bo die water, langs die water en/of onder die water. Soos gewoonlik trek dit nuuskierige skares en 'n feestelike atmosfeer hang oor die strand - veral as dit by die beoordeling kom. Heerlike pryse is te wen. Die beoordeling sal vanaf 12:00 geskied. Kontak Lida van Dyk by 028 273 8444 of 083 302 5886.

Die vakansieprogram sluit op Saterdag 8 Januarie af, beginnende met die tradisionele **strandskoonmaak** en skoonmaak van ons strate na die vakansiedae. Swart sakke sal verskaf word en ons ontmoet almal vir die groot skoonmaak om 8:00 by die glipweg. Shirley Richter sal weer regstaan en verversings verskaf.

Om 16:30 ruk al wat leef en beef op na die **Rooiels Concervancy AGM/Rooiels Bewarea AJV**. Dit belooft om 'n besondere geleentheid te wees aan huis van Ian en Shirley Richter by 122 Rocklandsstraat. Dit word gevolg deur 'n pikniek en lekker kuier op die Mōdingers se grasperk, 372 Lovers Walk.

U word versoek om die kennisgewingbord dop te hou vir enige wysigings aan die program of bykomende inligting.

GERARD SCHOLTZ
PROGRAM-KOÖRDINEERDER
(028 273 8539/073 543 2334)

FIRST CHRISTMAS FOR CONSERVANCY

The eight months since our Conservancy was registered in March, have flown. Much has happened in our little village. We have endeavoured to keep as many Conservancy members as possible in the picture about developments concerning Conservancy issues. Unfortunately, we have had to rely on communication by hand and word of mouth for those without access to e-mail.

Having been involved from the early days where the Conservancy was still a dream and now involved on a daily basis in trying to stay informed about issues concerning the village and its residents, it is easy, in the thick of things, to lose sight of why it is we have opted to become a conservancy.

The role of the Conservancy has entailed keeping a watching brief on events and development plans that may affect the character of the village; reacting to those developments as necessary; encouraging builders and architects to adopt more eco-friendly methods; trying to get Nature Conservation to maintain the reserve; liaising with conservation bodies, other villages in our district and the Municipality; watching for poachers and burglars; welcoming new members and capturing all the issues that people bring to our attention. These are over and above the daily tasks many set themselves to promote the tidiness and attractiveness of the village.

Many members are also involved in projects that serve the larger community - serving on conservation bodies, attending ward meetings, education projects, animal welfare, keeping track of municipal papers to evaluate projects and developments that may impact on the village in the long run, to name a few. These works are quietly undertaken by those who seek no fanfare or attention. The spirit of community is one of the two aims of our Conservancy ethos. Having lived here for three years as a 'permanent resident' and serving on the Conservancy EXCO, I am proud to report that community spirit is alive and well and growing in the village.

Die tweede arm van die BEWAREA se etos is bewaring in al sy aspekte. En as jy die dag sien hoe baljaar die klein bobbejaantjies aan Paul Zwick-hulle se klimraam en 'n ander dag kom wys die walvis haar kalfie vir jou, so naby dat ons na haar kan uitswem in 'n paar hale; sien hoe selfs die dolfyne saam met haar feesvier oor die kalm see, blou lug en sonskyn, dan weet ons waarom ons hier wil woon of vakansie wil hou en waarom ons, teen alle koste, ons pragtige omgewing wil bewaar.

With the ideals of community spirit and conservation becoming healthily entrenched in our community, it bodes well for the future of all Rooi Els residents, every man, flower and beast.

Currently we are 95 properties strong (79 owners). Hopefully by 8 January at the AGM, we shall be able to announce 100 properties representing a third of Rooi Els properties.

DEBBY DEVRIES
CHAIRPERSON CONSERVANCY
TEL 028 2738037



THE OTTER LOGO WAS ADOPTED FOR THE ROOI ELS CONSERVANCY AT THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING 1 MAY 2004. IT WAS DESIGNED BY CHRIS BURLOCK.

THE OTTER IS CONSIDERED TO BE A GOOD BAROMETER OF HOW HEALTHY THE ENVIRONMENT IS IN A PARTICULAR REGION. IT WAS CHOSEN TO SYMBOLISE ROOI ELS' IDEAL OF TRYING TO MAINTAIN A PRISTINE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL ITS ECO-SYSTEMS.

THE BLUE BACKGROUND SYMBOLISES THE ICONIC KLEIN HANGKLIP MOUNTAIN AND ALSO REPRESENTS THE WAVES OF THE OCEAN.



SECURITY TIPS FROM ASK

During the last few months there have been a huge number of burglaries in the Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els area. It seems that this is because of the increased number of criminals from the Strand and the Cape Peninsula who have discovered that the area is an easy target. The area is an easy target because there is only a small number of permanent residents, many houses do not have alarm systems, many alarm systems are not connected to security companies and the environment is ideal for theft. The local police have committed themselves to solving the problem and have arrested a large number of the culprits and have increased their visibility in the area. They are however, also restricted by factors such as the environment and resources.

The burglaries will most likely continue at a high rate as long as it remains easy for the criminals. Each homeowner also carries a responsibility to secure his or her property. The ideal defense against a burglary is an alarm system which is connected to a security company that will respond to the alarm when the alarm system is triggered. It is also necessary to ensure that both the alarm system and the security company adhere to certain standards to ensure that it provides real protection for your property.

The alarm system should cover the entire house, because it can happen that burglars will only break into rooms that are not protected by motion detectors and then the alarm system does not serve its purpose. It is worth investing in a good quality alarm system as it performs an important function, but in the final instance it is only electronic equipment and fallible. Ensure that the alarm system that you have installed does not limit you. In our area it is also better to make use of a radio communicator, rather than a telephone to communicate with the security company as the burglars can disable the telephone before entering the premises.

The alarm system is an electronic device with a battery, resistors and many other things that need maintenance and ideally should be serviced annually. It is the responsibility of the client to regularly request the security company to service the system. Electronics age very quickly and it is necessary to upgrade the system from time to time to ensure an efficient service. The quality of the installation of the alarm system is also important, because a bad installation can result in problems. Preferably the security company needs to be a locally based in order to serve you properly. Ensure that your security company makes use of recognized products, a proper radio system and has the necessary infrastructure to support you. Security companies do not replace the police or the insurance companies and can only deliver as much as you are willing to pay for.

ANNALISE KIESLING
ASK SECURITY

KENNISGEWING VAN ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING

32STE AJV VAN DIE ROOIELS BELASTINGBETALERSVERENING

DATUM: WOENSDAG 29 DESEMBER 2004

TYD 17:00

REGISTRASIE EN BETALING VAN R60 LIDMAATSKAPGELDE VANAF 16:30

PLEK: ERF 239 (WONING VAN NICK EN HANNAH AUGUSTIDES.)

BRING ASB EIE STOEL SAAM!

ROADS UPDATE

BRIEF RECAP

Following receipt by the Municipality of conflicting views from various quarters within Rooi Els, on the appropriate policy for the development of our roads and public access ways, and RERA proposals that a participatory process be conducted to draft a policy proposal for consideration by the Council, Cecile Jonkheid, Area Manager of the Hangklip-Kleinmond Administration, initiated a roads workshop. This workshop was held in July 2004 and attended by representatives from RERA, the Boat Club, REIA, the Conservancy, the Biosphere Reserve Action Group (BRAG), Save Klein-Hangklip Association and the Ward Committee.

Criticisms were made before and after the workshop about the representivity of those present at the workshop and about the workshop process. At the workshop, however, a significant level of consensus was reached on most roads issues and a document was drafted detailing the workshop's conclusions and recommendations. While the attendees of the workshop only recommended that one aspect of the recommended draft policy must be tested with Rooi Els property owners, it was decided that, in view of criticisms of the workshop, a questionnaire should be distributed - scoped to test the community's views on a broad range of roads issues.

The workshop recommendations together with a questionnaire was distributed by the municipality in September 2004.

OUTCOME OF THE "ROADS QUESTIONNAIRE"

Just short of 100 Rooi Els property owners responded to the questionnaire. In order to ensure that the views contained in the completed questionnaires would not be subject to bias, the Municipality sent the completed questionnaires to a skilled independent analyst for analysis.

Feedback from the analyst has indicated that the result is inconclusive for several reasons:

- The percentage response is low;
- About 20% of those who responded were confused by the monochromatic map;
- There is doubt about whether everyone who wanted the questionnaire in Afrikaans received the translated version;
- Many respondents are not familiar with the background to the various roads issues and so may have misunderstood questions posed in the questionnaire.



WAY FORWARD

The Municipality is commissioning the independent analyst to draw up an improved questionnaire, which will be redistributed early in the new year. Insights gained from responses that were made to the previous questionnaire will assist in ensuring that the revised questionnaire is effective.

Further explanation of the recommendations made by the roads workshop will be presented at the RERA and Rooi Els Conservancy Annual General Meetings over the year-end and explanatory notes will be posted on the Rooi Els information board in the CBD.

It is hoped that all Rooi Els property owners will make every effort to understand the recommendations from the July workshop and that everyone will make their views known by responding to the revised questionnaire. Failing this, in the absence of a conclusive outcome, who will decide the roads policy on our behalf ... someone in Hermanus?

ROB FRYER

UPDATE

THE WARD COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL APPROVE AN AMOUNT OF R300 000 FOR RESURFACING OF ROADS IN ROOIELS, PRINGLE BAY AND BETTY'S BAY AS PART OF THE 2005/2006 BUDGET

KAWS NEWS

A SHAGGY DOG STORY

Rex is a Proteadorp township dog; a shaggy sort of Airedale-like mongrel. He's also a born optimist, always exuberant and full of the joys of life! But 3 months ago his exuberance crossed paths with a hit-and-run driver.

Kleinmond Animal Welfare Society (KAWS) got a call from distraught owner, Nicholas Taylor. Volunteer, Yvonne Pretorius, found Rex standing on 3 legs, a smashed front leg dangling like a string of sausages. He needed to get to a vet straight away. She felt his pain as she got him and out of her car. Rex licked her hand. X-rays showed the humerus splintered into five pieces. The options were euthanasia.. amputation.. or expensive surgery.

Throughout the discussions over his fate, brave Rex never stopped wagging his tail. None of the parties could bring themselves to consider euthanasia! So, being a welfare case, Dr Dave agreed to halve his fees, KAWS volunteered to undertake the weeks of post-surgery care, and Nicholas promised to find the money to pay off his share of the amputation over the next 6 months.

But after Nicholas left the consulting rooms a new plan was hatched to save Rex's shattered limb. Dr Dave operated the next morning, inserting two stainless steel pins into the bone shaft and binding the splintered sections together with four circular wires. KAWS would donate a kennel and fencing materials to keep Rex secure in the future... and would also try and raise the extra monies now needed to return Nicholas' four-legged friend with all four legs instead of three!

Today, Rex is recovering well, but R1 630 is still outstanding. Should anyone be able to help KAWS with a portion of this cost, contributions to the 'Rex fund' would be most appreciated. Deposits can be made to KAWS; ABSA branch code 334812, account number 911 962 7962, or given to KAWS volunteers, Estelle le Roux and Chris Burlock, 274 Perspicua Road, Rooi Els, (028) 273 8278.



REX WITH SCAR VISIBLE ON SHOULDER

Rex is just one KAWS story...many have happy endings, many do not.

A bitch gave birth to a litter of puppies in a wrecked car sitting outside her owner's house in Poppedorp. The bitch clambered in and out through the broken windscreen- but the puppies couldn't. Estelle discovered the pups only after they died. The bitch had run out of milk and the owner had not bothered to give the puppies any food or water!

We can turn our backs on the needs of animals in our underprivileged areas... or we can do something! KAWS needs financial help (Life Membership is just R250), as well as hands-on help: dipping dogs, assisting at the KAWS Clinic, recruiting new members, educating children, helping with admin, fostering kittens, collecting Jumble, arranging fundraisings, lending a hand with plumbing, carpentry or fitting out the KAWS Clinic that we are trying to build in Proteadorp... Chris or Estelle will happily give Rooi Elers more information on how YOU can help make a difference!

CHRIS BURLOCK

"WE CALL THEM DUMB ANIMALS, AND SO THEY ARE, FOR THEY CANNOT TELL US HOW THEY FEEL, BUT THEY DO NOT SUFFER LESS BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO WORDS."

- ANNA SEWELL
AUTHOR OF BLACK BEAUTY
(1820 - 1878)

HET JY DIE BOBBEJANE GESIEN?

Ons wat permanent op Rooi-Els woon, het elke dag met die bobbejane te make, veral as jou huis op hul voedingsroete is. Die bobbejane is 'n emosionele onderwerp. Jy kry soveel verskillende menings onder bobbejaan-liefhebbers, bobbejaan-haters en bobbejaan-kenners, en dis te betwyfel of daar 'n finale antwoord is.



Ek het 'n artikel vir *Insig* tydskrif geskryf oor die bobbejane. Die puik fotograaf, Nick Aldridge sou die foto's neem en hy daag hier op met 'n bagasiebak vol toerusting. Ek het die hele dorp gemobiliseer om bobbejaan "spotters" te wees. Sodra hulle die trop gewaar, sou hulle my bel. Die Vissers skakel eerste: Charles die bobbejaan sit op hulle stoep. Nick skiet rolle film op Charles: Charles loer deur die tralies, Charles wys tande, Charles vreet rosyntjies uit Milené se hand.



Ons soek die hele dorp vol en dra swaar aan die kamera en lense en verkykers en Energade, en die son steek dat die biesies bewe. Nêrens is daar 'n bobbejaan te sien nie. Niemand skakel nie. Niemand het die trop gewaar nie. Ons is Pringlebaai toe. Niks. Geen bobbejaan nie

Die res van die trop is weg. Die vorige week nog het hulle die hele dorp vol gekattemaai en gehang aan tralies en geswaai aan geute en die vullistreier se draadhok suksesvol oopgemaak. Hulle het seeghwarriebessies en suurvrytjies gevreet en op die balkon gesit en tuur oor die see. Maar nou is hulle weg.

Ons kom terug, en daar by die Groen Klipmonster, digby die pad na die drinkwater dam, kry ons 'n splintertrop wat bestaan uit: 'n mannetjie in die Leucadendron bos, 'n groot wyfie met rooi ballon boude, 'n jong moeder met 'n pienkgevreet aan die pens, twee adolessente wyfies wat na die kleingoed omsien, twee tieners wat boks in die afvoersloot, en vyf kleintjies wat kordaat manewales uithaal.



Toe ons uitklim, beweeg hulle effens weg. Die ouer bobbejane hou ons dop, en loer veral na die lang lens. Die jonger bobbejane hou konsert. Mettertyd raak hulle al rustiger en ons gaan al nader. Klik, klik, klink die kamera. Later is ons so naby, dat Nick 'n korter lens moet aansit. Die wyfies wei en die Alfa mannetjie sit reg voor ons en vreet verbete aan die geel toletjies. Die kleintjies kalmeer en sit ons nuuskierig en dophou.



Wat ons hier gesien het, is heeltemal anders as die bobbejaantrop in die dorp. In die dorp is hulle gespanne en van hulle is vol aggressiewe energie. Van hulle is vandaliste. Hier in die veld is hulle net bobbejane tussen die sewejaartjies en die wildedagga. Hulle is wilde diere in die natuur.

'n Motor hou stil. 'n Vrou klim uit, neem 'n foto, klim terug, en hulle vertrek. (*Seen that, done that, got the picture*). Nog 'n motor, hierdie keer met twee toeriste, elkeen met sy eie kamera. Hulle boender hier tussen ons deur, en trap die fynbos plat. Die Alfa-bobbejaan draai sy profiel.

Hierso, sê die man. Hy wil 'n portretfoto neem. Die bobbejaan gaap en wys sy slagtande - 'n teken van intimidasie in bobbejaantaal. Die man het nie 'n saak nie, hy wil sy foto neem. Hy maak eienaardige "oerwoud" geluide. Die hele trop staan op en beweeg stadig weg deur die bosse. *Daar's nog!* Skree die vrou.

Hulle het sowaar nie voorheen die res van die trop opgelet nie. Hulle het nie gesien hoe die ma die kleintjie uit die pad trek toe 'n motor aankom nie, nie gesien hoe daar vlooi gesoek word nie, nie gesien hoe die baba gesoog word nie, nie gesien hoe 'n speletjie ontstaan nie, nie gesien hoe skerm-tegnieke geoefen word nie, nie gesien hoe 'n toletjie met die voortande gewerk word om die vrug uit te kry nie. Die man het 'n foto van twaalf agterstewes, waarvan een erg pienk.

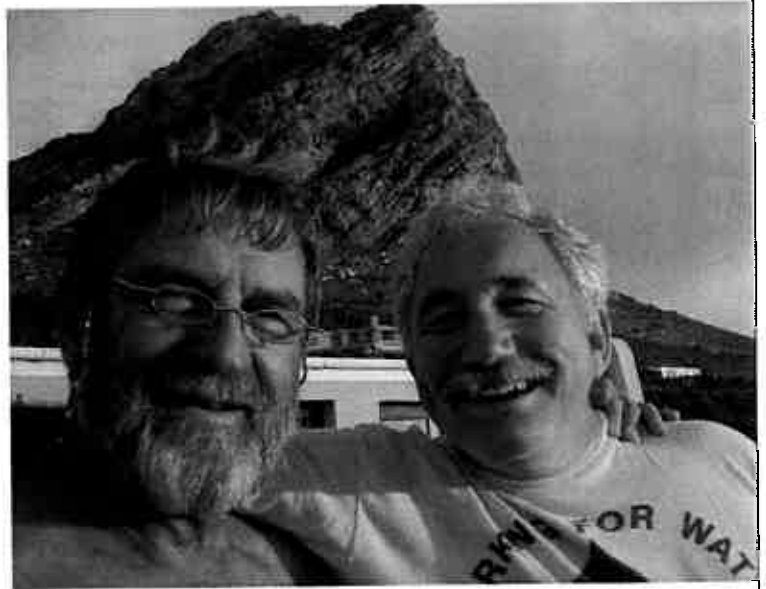
Maar ons het ons foto's. Sien die Januarie/Februarie uitgawe van *Insig*.

G - FORCE!

GEDOENTE VAN DIE TWEE "G'S" EN DIE INBREKERS

It must have been about 9pm on the evening of 19th October that Thor the thunder god, with rumbling stomach and belching fire, rolled across the heavens. I could not resist this display and stood on our balcony, gazing in awe across False Bay.

But what was that? A light in the Truran's cottage? They were not there. Must be my imagination! In the dark I reached for my binoculars as a small white car with an inscription on the door passed in that direction. The security company perhaps? But it turned down Rocklands away from the Truran's. Another reflected flash from the Truran window caught my eye - burglars? Could it be? They had been very active lately. I phoned Gerard for the Security Company number. As he was reading me the number, he saw vehicle headlights returning. Should he stop them? Yes, of course.



DIE TWEE "G'S": GEOFF HARRIS EN GERARD SCHOLZ

I reported the incident and headed out my front door. A Coney Island scene. Three cars, flashing lights, people milling around - *die hele lot*. And Gerard standing there *oopmond* and his fancy Chinese torch still flashing furiously.

The car he had stopped contained three men and a pile of duvets, blankets, household goods etc. The other two cars belonged to the Kleinmond police who had been tailing the alleged thieves when Gerard stopped them. They were hauled out of their vehicle, efficiently handcuffed and carted off to Kleinmond.

Next morning we heard that another four thieves had been caught red-handed in No. 151 (which is just behind the Truran's) later that night. Was it perhaps them 'casing' the Truran's with a flashlight that caught my eye?

Well done locals, and well done police - all very cool and professional. (The police, I mean, *want ons twee local yokels se monde hang nog oop!*)

GEOFF HARRIS

4DE BIOSFEER -KUNSUITSTALLING: BRAND!

13 KUNSTENAARS VERSKEIE MEDIA

23 - 30 DECEMBER CLOSED 25 DEC

260 PERSPICUA ROAD

10H00 - 17H00

4TH BIOSPHERE ART EXHIBITION: FIRE!



WAAROM NIE EK NIE?

Ek het gehoor klank gaan nooit verlore nie, en ek het geleer, woorde het 'n manier om te boemerang. Heel dikwels in die onlangse verlede het ek begin sê dat ek te veel goed het; honderde CD's waarna ek selde luister, juwele wat ek nooit dra nie. Ensovoorts. En toe op 30 Augustus kom die diewe in die nag, soos die Bybel sê, en dra behÓórlík weg. Toe ek die nuus kry, het ek dit half gelate aanvaar, maar die geestelike bruggie moes ek oor.

Toe word inventaris opneem, van wat weg is, en van wat nog is, 'n traumatiese ervaring: artikels wat lankal oorbodig verklaar was, het skielik 'n taamlike prys gekry, en van die gesteelde artikels se vervangingswaarde was meteens skaars 'n derde van wat ek daarvoor betaal het, dinge soos die Nikon 401 kamera, addisionele lense en flitse en 'n Yamaha musieksentrum, die baie duur vleklose staal eetgerei in die buiteland aangekoop. Gevolglik 'n verlies van ongeveer R85 000 en in totaal onderversaker met R35 000. Die assessor het vriendelik verduidelik dat sou SANTAM uitbetaal dit ongeveer R70 000 sou wees. Sy aanbeveling sou egter negatief wees omdat volgens kontrak alle oopmaakbare vensters en deure van diefwering voorsien moes wees en die diewe, volgens hom soos by die ondersoekbeampte verneem, 'n venster sonder diefwering sou oopgedwing het. Dit was egter duidelik, en bevestig deur die polisie, dat, ironies genoeg, ingebreek is by 'n venster met diefwering, tydelik aangebring deur die prakties-denkende Chris nadat ook die bobbejane vroeër daardeur toegang verkry het. SANTAM weier inderdaad om te betaal, maar danksy die bobbejane en Chris het ek 'n logiese argument!

Die 'engele' van Rooiels begin dans; 'n goeie vriend onderneem om die saak met die versekeraar op te neem; 'n prokureursvriend bel en gee raad; nog 'n vriend, ook 'n regsgeleerde, loop oor en gee raad; 'n musieksentrum en 'n paar CD's word afgelewer vir tydelike gebruik, 'n skêr geleen. Ek koop potte en panne, en linne vir my bed, skaf 'n alarmstelsel aan. 'n Vriendin bel en sê sy wil vir my iets koop en ek mag nie nee sê nie *'anders is jy ongehoorsaam, Lida'*. Ek sê dankie maar wag eers, ek kan klaarkom. Ek sê dit vir almal wat wil help. Sny my naels by 'n vriendin, eet elke dag met silwer eetgerei, en wag. En ek bid: Here, smokkel asb met SANTAM se 'koppe' sodat ek ten minste iets terugkry vir die noodsaaklike - ek benodig minstens 'n rekenaar. Ek vra ook vir 'n werksgeleentheid.

Maandagoggend, 4 Oktober, lees ek in *"My Utmost for His Highest"* by die verkeerde datum: *Our human pride entrenches itself on this point and we say: I will never accept anything from anyone. We shall have to or disobey God. We have no right to expect to be in any other relation than our Lord Jesus Himself was in. (see Luke viii. 2-3).*

Skaars 'n halfuur later bel 'n buurvrou, vra watter programme ek gehad het, hulle wil vir my 'n rekenaar gee. Ek lag verbaas, en aanvaar met grasie - in die lig van wat ek so pas gelees het. 'n Rukkie later bel my skoondogter uit Pretoria en vertel dat kennisse van ons 'n bestuurder soek vir hul 4-ster gastehuis in die Wildernis - stel ek nie dalk belang nie? Toe ek van my skrik herstel het, bel ek.

Ek dink dit was ook dieselfde dag wat 'n ander vriendin my uitnooi na 'n 'laat-lente ete' twee aande voor my vertrek na Gauteng. Daar aangekom, vind ek die baaskokke van Rooiels aan't woel in die kombuis en heelwat gaste. Ek raak suspisies oor die aard en doel van die samekoms, en vermoed dat dit dalk oor die paaie mag gaan. Die aandjie verloop heerlijk gesellig in die lieflike ambience van my vriende se huis. Dit eet en drink en wees vrolik en ek vermoed niks. Dan kry elke gas 'n klein bruin papiersakkie met 'n sjokolade, en 'n boodskap wat eers tuis gelees mag word. Tuis verkneukel ek my oor die dik rol 'speelgoedgeld' in myne, Toe ek besef dis regte geld, wonder ek of die verkeerde sakkie aan my oorhandig is, daar staan slegs 'recycle' en 'Afr' op. Sien dan die sirkelvormige briefie, my naam *slap bang* in die middel, konsentries daaromheen die name van al die gaste en ook 'n paar afwesiges - *because we care*.

Ek huil sporadies deur die nag oor die lieflike omhelsing.

Sjoe!

Dankie al julle liewe engele.

SANTAM het toe uitendelik ongeveer 'n derde van die verlies betaal.

Ek begin 8 Januarie by *Emma's Gift* in die Wildernis.

Ek voel oneindig dankbaar teenoor my Skepper wat my deur hierdie ervaring bevry het van enige verknogtheid aan huis en haard, my onafhanklike gees 'n sagte knakkie gegee het en my geleer het dat gehoorsaamheid aan Hom ook tot seën van my medemens werk. . (Amper sê ek amen . .)



WOORDE IN DIE WIND: MELANIE GROBLER

'N GESPREK OOR GEDIGTE, METAFORE EN PERSOONLIKE MITOLOGIE

Op 'n soel windstil Augustus-aand op Rooi Els het digter Melanie Grobler en haar dogter Eugenie Grobler, bekende verhoogpersoonlikheid en sangeres, ons kom betower. Dit was die bekendstelling van Melanie se nuutste digbundel, DIE WATERBREKER. Ma en dogter is geesgenote wie se gedigte en sang mekaar inspireer. Die aand was aangebied as 'n indiepte kreatiewe gesprek tussen hulle twee. Die wye ryk stem van Eugenie het die gesprek geopen met die voorsang van haar toonsetting van een van Melanie gedigte. Melanie se antwoord was 'n gedig oor 'n nagtegaal wat sy vir Eugenie geskryf het.



MELANIE GROBLER & ANDREAS
CLAASSENS

Die Pringlebaai-omgewing vind telkens gestalte in Melanie se gedigte Sandra Kotze het 'n gedig oor die wind, die kleure van die veld en 'n nat dassie, treffend voorgelees en die gedig se emosionele profiel verder vertolk en ingekleur.

Na sop en brood het ons terug gekeer na die pitkosgesprek en mense was honger vir saamgesels. Skrywers Petra Muller en Dine van Zyl, het nuwe stuwinge en momentum aan die gesprek gegee. Dorian Haarhof, skrywer, digter en lektor het ook bygedra tot die rykdom van stories en metafore wat hy in sy werksinkels gebruik. Die aand het wyer en wyer uitgekling. Ons wou net nie ophou gesels nie..

EVETTE WEYERS

VANNAG KAN EK WEER SKRYF AAN DIE LAND SE KANT IS HANGKLIP
'N SKUIWENDE BERG WAT UITMOND IN VLAKTES WAAR BRANDERS IN BLOU LYWE BAAI
'N LANDSKAP WAAR DIE PIEK SE WIGSPEL MET DIE MAAN
RONDOM DIE RONDING VAN DIE AARDE SPEEL
DIE BERG SE LIP SLAAN PAD NA BETTIESBAAI, KLEINMOND,
ONRUS, VERMONT NA HERMANUS STROOM DIE MOTORS
MET HOOFLIGTE WAT SWAK PROBEER OM DIE NAG TE TEM VEEL VERDER, BY
MOOI HAWENS, STAAN PIKKEWYNE KOP ONDER VLERK
'N ALBATROS VOU VLERKE OM DIE BERG DEUR DIE GROOT DRIEHOEK-
VENSTER VAN MY HARTSHUIS DEUR DIE SAGTE MOTLAG-REEN
KYK EK NA DIE WISSELWERKINGE VAN SAND TUSSEN BERG EN STRAND

- MELANIE GROBLER,
UIT: VANNAG KAN EK WEER SKRYF, DIE WATERBREKER



THE SOUTHEASTER

THE SOUTHEASTER IS AS MUCH A PART OF LIFE IN THE CAPE AS GOOD RED WINE AND TASTY SEA FOOD, ALL OF WHICH CAN HAVE THEIR UP, AND DOWN SIDES.

The up side of the southeaster is that it keeps our air clean, and it keeps us cool while, on the down side... ask many of our touring visitors.

Capetonians are very loose in their definition of the Southeaster - any strong wind that comes from a sector between East and Southwest can be labeled a Southeaster.

Meteorologically, the Southeaster is part of the anticlockwise circulation around the South Atlantic High pressure cell, a permanent feature on weather maps of the subtropical portion of the Atlantic Ocean. The greater the pressure difference between the High and adjacent areas of Low pressure, the greater the speed of the winds circulating around the periphery of the High.

Our mountains channel the wind, horizontally, into corridors of strong wind such as may be experienced on the Cape Flats between Table Mountain and Tygerberg or Windgat between Rooi Els and Pringle Bay.



KETIH MOIR

Vertically the mountains form a block that the wind will attempt to surmount. A "wind wave" develops and close by the downwind side of a steep mountain a "lee" or calm region can be found. During strong Southeaster episodes, this calm area can be identified in places on Clarence Drive between Rooi Els and Kogel Bay. Another good example can be found on the Clifton beaches.

Further down wind of the mountain, the wave touches down on the surface causing a moving area of extreme air turbulence. These turbulent areas are typical of Rooi Els during a strong Southeaster episode, whipping up sand and dust and rattling the windows at one moment while quieting down shortly thereafter. It is this same turbulent area that appears to "blow holes" in the ocean.

"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

Another characteristic of this downward flowing air in the lee of our mountains is the berg wind effect. Rooi Els is often markedly warmer than Betty's Bay. Air forced down the mountain into Rooi Els is warmed by compression on the downwind slopes, cloud dissipates and warmer, drier conditions result.

Temperature also modifies the Southeaster. In the Boland, away from the cooling influence of the ocean, afternoon temperatures soar during summer. Cool air from the coast rushes inland striving for equilibrium in the atmosphere. The resultant "sea breeze" increases the speed of the Southeaster during the summer.

Overnight, Boland temperatures fall faster than sea temperatures, setting up a contrary flow from the land to the sea. This "land breeze" gradually reduces the speed of the Southeaster during the night. In Rooi Els this moderation in wind speed usually only occurs shortly before sunrise.

During the winter months the Southeaster becomes less frequent as the South Atlantic High follows the northward "migration" of the sun. Colder temperatures also promote "land breezes" and Southeasters are generally weaker.

A well-defined Southeaster cycle is apparent to meteorologists and is closely associated with the eastward movement of breakaway cells of high pressure passing the Cape.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

"WIND. TO BLOW US DOWN AND THEN TO BRING US HOME. TO BLOW US BACK UNTO OURSELVES. FILL OUR SAILS AND BRIM OUR HEARTS."

SUSAN ST. JOHN RHEAULT

ROOI-ELS KRY GOEIE REËN NA BRAND

Ten spyte van die droogte in die breër Wes-Kaapgebied, moes Rooi-Elsers vanjaar minder struwelinge gehad het, want ons was met goeie reëns geseënd!

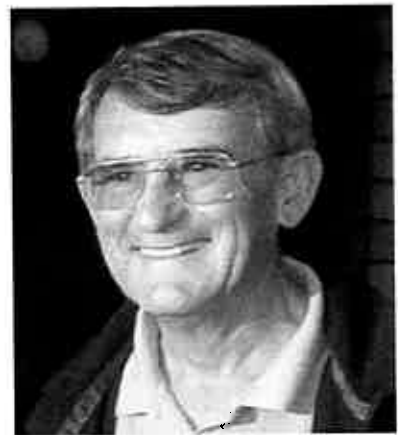
Die mooi begin van die herstel van die plantegroei ná die brand einde Januarie, is ook bewys van goeie reën wat met gereëde tussenposes geval het. Volgens Dr. Rourke van Kirstenbosch is 'n brand teen laat somer verkieslik om die veld 'n beter kans op herstel te gee. Dan is die ergste somerwind en hitte aan die afneem, minder saad waai weg en indien daar 'n goeie reënseisoen of twee volg, gee dit die saad 'n beter kans om te ontkiem en gevestig te raak.

Kom ons vertrou Rooi-Els se mense gaan die volgende jaar of twee nog steeds minder vir mekaar knor sodat die reën in strome kom! Dit sal die veld vernuwe, vars en fris laat. (Daarna kan ons maar weer onder mekaar laat waai!)

LW. Hierdie syfers is aan die mooiste kant van Rooi-Els gemeet. Syfers aan die ander kant mag dramaties verskil agv sake buite my beheer!

PIERRE DU TOIT

REËNVAL	2003	2004
Januarie	48mm	20
Februarie	0	5
Maart	62	25
April	16	79
Mei }	75saam	21
Junie }		131
Julie	73	128
Augustus	111	104
September	71	83
Oktober	52	124
November	12	17
Desember	49	15sover



CONTINUED:

WEATHERMAN KEITH ON THE SOUTHEASTER

A "Deep Southeaster" is born along the West Coast as high pressure follows a cold front past Cape Town. Strong southerly winds develop in this deep layer of cold air above the surface. In Rooi Els we would still experience a weak, cold southwesterly flow with potential for rain showers.

As the High extends further eastwards, south of the country, strong southeasterly winds gradually spread southwards over the Peninsula and eventually reach Rooi Els. In this process, the atmosphere warms from aloft and strong Southeasters get confined into an ever-shallower layer of cool air near the surface.

Further eastward movement of the High, away from our area, causes circulation to become easterly and eventually northeasterly. Warm air from the Karoo reaches the Cape coast and heralds the death of the Southeaster, initially along the West Coast and much later in the Cape Point and Rooi Els area.

The weather forecaster's task would be simple if only all weather followed definite cycles. Unfortunately the Southeaster cycle can shrink, stretch, be interrupted, and be restarted, dependent on the season.

A lady client enquiring about the Southeaster described it as "*daai mannetjies wind*". Pressed for an explanation she told me "*hy waai al wat 'n vrou is, se rok op!*"

KEITH MOIR
STATION MANAGER: CAPE TOWN WEATHER OFFICE

GETTING TO KNOW THE NIGHT SKY:

THE SEVEN SISTERS & THE BIRTH OF NEW STARS

The cheerful cluster of stars known as the Seven Sisters or Pleiades shine like a tiny jewel-box in the greater constellation of Taurus (the Bull). Although this cluster is not particularly bright, humanity always seems to have had a special affinity for the Seven Sisters - they were even mentioned in the Chinese records of the twenty-fourth century BC!

Today it is only possible to see six of the Seven Sisters with the naked eye. With binoculars or a telescope it is plain to see that the family is actually much more numerous than seven. The total number of stars exceeds 400 and the distance of the cluster is 410 light years.

According to astronomers, this group of stars is one of the youngest clusters we can see from Earth. It contains some extremely bright stars (the "big spenders") that will burn out long before the cluster has been able to fully develop. A very large part of the Seven Sisters cluster consists of gas and dust clouds where new stars are continuously being born. It is a "nebula" which is Latin for haze and refers to a huge cloud of gas and dust in space. Many of the very young stars are cocooned in shells of heated dust. These particles reflect starlight, causing the nebula to glow dimly. The stars in the cluster of the Seven Sisters are all young stars, being white or blue-white stars. There are no old red giants or ancient white dwarfs in this group.

COSMIC CYCLE OF DEATH AND BIRTH

"Dying stars send a large proportion of their mass back into space. There is no reason why this material could not aggregate into nebulae, hence giving birth to a new generation of stars. This process appears to be a cosmic form of recycling, but it is more than that. Stars of a new generation are different from the old, because they are made of matter that was processed within older stars. To produce energy, stars must convert light-weight elements, hydrogen and helium, into heavier elements such as carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, silicon, calcium and iron. Therefore, later generations of stars are progressively enriched with heavier and more diverse elements."

"STAR MAPS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA"
BY ALBERT JANSEN
ISBN 1 77007 005 2



THE MYTH OF THE PLEIADES

The Pleiades were daughters of Atlas and nymphs. One day the great hunter Orion saw them and, becoming totally enamoured and obsessed, pursued them. In their distress the nymphs prayed to the gods to change them into pigeons and then made a constellation in the sky. Although their number was seven, only six are visible, because one of them, Electra left her place so that she might not behold the ruin of the city of Troy, founded by her son. It seems that the sight of Troy being ruined had such an effect on her sisters that they have looked pale ever since!

"STARGAZING FOR THE NOVICE" BY FRANZ CONRADIE,
ISBN 0-620-15932-4,

LEGENDS OF THE KHOIKHOI AND THE SAN

The Pleiades (named Khuseti) by the Khoikhoi, are called the rainstars. Their appearance over the greater part of southern Africa indicates the rainy season is near and thus the beginning of a new year. When the Pleiades appear in the east, little ones are lifted by their mothers and presented to the stars. The Pleiades are considered friendly and the children are taught to stretch their hands towards them.

SOTHO AND NGUNI

The Pleiades (called isiLimela or imiLimela) were the 'digging stars', whose appearance in southern Africa told of the coming plowing season. All over Africa, these stars were used as a marker of the growing season. Xhosa men counted their years of manhood from the time in June when isiLimela first became visible.

The appearance of the Pleiades marks the beginning of the Xhosa year.

HUIS-TOE-KOM

GERARD EN ANUTA NA TWEE JAAR IN TAIWAN

Dit gebeur keer op keer dat ons Rooiels romantiseer as ons vir lank in die buiteland is. In jou verlange vergeet jy van die onplesierige winde, terroris-bobbejane, skinnerstories en die gevaarlike seestrome. Elke aand as die *weitschmerz* oor jou kom, skuif mirages van perfekte sonsondergange, oordadige fynbos, blomme in wonderlike kleure, 'n turkoois see en glasige branders op wit-wit sand voor jou in. In 'n arkadiese landskap wei mens, bobbejaan en luiperd in vrede saam.

Dié keer moes ons twee jaar wag vir die huis-toe-kom. Die verrukking kom vanaf die eerste draai na Gordonsbaai. Ons blou-blou see tot by Kaappunt. Ons maak al die vensters oop om die noordelike halfrond se swaar lug uit ons longe te verban. Maar o, wee, daar het 'n pot vol rooi verf in die see geval. Rooigety.

Ons het gehoor van al Hettie se harde werk om die tuine by die ingang so mooi te kry. Dit is toe ook so, maar op die plaveisel waarvoor ons so hard gewerk en geveg het, lê twee reuse 'doughnuts'. Die stempel van 'n onbesonne motorfietsryer? Of 'n Edik dat Rooiels uitverkoop is?

Skoonma wag ons in en dadelik weet ons daar is groot moeilikheid. Vir die huis-toe-kom het sy 'n wit koek met *icing* gebak. Nodeloos om te sê dat Charlie, of Kwaatgeld, of Hangbal, weg is met die koek...

Ons het skaars ons soetkyste afgelaai toe die eerste bure opdaag en al wat ons hoor is: diewe, inbrake, bendes, alarmstelsels, sindikate Vir twee jaar daar anderkant het ons nie 'n deur gesluit nie, jou bagasie op jou motorfiets gelos as jy toer, somer die sleutels oornag net so in die aansitter laat hang. Nou 'n kwantumsprong: Wees bedag op elke vreemde motor, verdink somer jou buurman, leef in vrees en bewing, wag jou beurt af. En woedend saag ek die moerse slot van my agterdeur af wat André W opgesit het toe die diewe my huis ook een nag probeer oopbreek het. Woedend omdat ek my misgis het. Met 'n paradys.

Die eerste aand is soos ons dit oor en oor gerepeteer het. 'n Volmaakte sonsondergang met 'n *green flash*, walvisse, wyn en heerlike geselskap. Laataand stap ons met Ramkat om weer deur die Suiderkruis gelei te word, maar word so verblind deur buiteligte dat ons skoon van koers verdwaal. Val ook nog later in 'n sandpit vas soos die boulorries die paaie uitkalwe.

Vroeg die volgende oggend stap ons in die natuurtuin. Die paadjies is toegegroeï. Ek breek amper weer my been toe ek deur die stukkende planke van die *boardwalk* val. En ek verdwaal op die duinepad en raak histories toe ek later teen 'n duin afrol en vrees ek land op 'n nes vol tobie-eiers of 'n duineslang of 'n ding. Onderhou die munisipaliteit dan niks meer nie, en wat word van al ons belasting? Maar mense sit kliploos. Dit kon die munisipaliteit doen, hulle klippe wegvat.



Daardie eerste oggend ontdek ons al die vreemde grasse aan die rand van die natuurtuin. 'n Ramp in wording. Deur 'n terroris gesaai? Of ingekom met die bogrond vir die paaie?

Die dorp is vol mooi nuwe huise. Tot 'n *Game Lodge*. Ons wens die eienaars geluk met hulle goeie smaak. Ons swymel oor Dawid se nuwe huis op die duine. Hy kan maar ons huis kom afbreek en vir ons ook so 'n mooi huis bou, sê ons vir hom.

Ons eerste kapdag kom. Hoe dan nou? Ons kap dan op presies dieselfde kol saam met dieselfde kappers. Dieselfde bome op dieselfde erwe saai dieselfde saadjies en dieselfde kappers haal die boompies uit? En steeds net een hond wat help. Dan onthou ons die rooikranswoude en mirtelanings van vyf en twintig jaar gelede.

Marius en Evette se Tokkelos het beginne doof word, ons sien nie meer ons bokkies nie, en ons rotse is skoongestroop. Dankbaarheid vir rotse wat nog vasklou. Ons voel vreemd. Die berg het afgebrand. Ons tel fisantvere op waar die bouers bou, en 'n skilpaddop, en 'n hoop ondermaat perlmoenskulpe. Die inbrake bly. Ontwikkelaars doen aansoek om nóg 'n restaurant en vyf woonstelle by die sirkel...

Maar dis as die Sedoos gaan lê en die stilte oor die dorp toesak. Dis as die getye instoot vir die dorp se groot asemhaling. As die maan half oor die baai hang en 'n ligspoor oor die see strooi. As die walvisse tevrede sug. En jy een oggend die wonder van 'n klein orgidee in die natuurreservaat ontdek. En die suikervoëls heeldag konsert hou op die kreupelhoute voor ons huis. Weet ons die huis-toe-kom was die moeite werd. Die drome daar in 'n ver land het waar geword. Die repetisies van huis-toe-kom se droomopeningstoneel bly vir ons: Rooiels. *Warts, flaws and all.*

GERARD SCHOLTZ

CELEBRATING THE KOGELBERG

BOOK LAUNCH

The book, *The Kogelberg - Mountains of the Marsh Rose*, was written by retired church minister Gerald Mc Cann, who had been a forester and involved in nature conservation in the Kogelberg Reserve (and elsewhere) for many years. He is also a great storyteller, as proved true at the book launch, which was held at Wondelings, Rooi Els, on the 30th of October. (He has 5 more published books to his name.)

Gerald told many wonderful stories around the creation of the book and the background that gave rise to it. There was large scale poaching of Marsh Roses when these were the most sought after flowers in the Cape. Cutting down a small colony of Marsh Roses could feed a poacher and his family for a year!



JENNY STARK AND GERALD MC CANN AT THE LAUNCH OF HIS BOOK

We, the audience at the launch, were all intrigued by this nail-biting story of one of the Kogelberg's greatest gems, that was on the verge of extinction. At a certain stage there was only one Marsh Rose flower left on the planet and we saw a slide of it up in the Kogelberg with a drooping flower, weighed down by the imminent demise of its species.

Now that was at the time when fire was considered the greatest enemy to the Cape Floral Kingdom by nature conservationists! Then one man in charge, Dr Luckhoff, (standing on the shoulder of a giant, Dr Stokoe), said that they had to burn the mountain down, because this might just be the salvation of the Marsh Rose. And what a gamble that was! There is so much more to tell but that is in the book....

Gerald is a keen photographer and showed us slides of the proteas that can be found in the Kogelberg Reserve. He has a vision of tourists coming to walk a trail where they can see, not the Big Five, but the "Royal Five" (proteas).

His inspiring talk made one appreciate the unique beauty and value of the Kogelberg Biosphere again, but also the passion that drives singular individuals to work for the survival and preservation of its species and rich diversity.

The book is available at the Harold Porter Gardens and other outlets including the Rooi Els Village Shop.

EVETTE WEYERS

LIDMAATSKAP OF SKENKINGS

REBV BANKREKENINGNOMMER:

ABSA 29-0016-6152

TAKKODE 334-712

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

"IN ALL THINGS OF NATURE THERE IS SOMETHING OF THE MARVELOUS"
- ARISTOTLE (384 BC - 322 BC)

REHABILITATION OF THE DUMP

A CINDERELLA STORY IN THE MAKING

In the very early days of Betty's Bay's history there was no refuse collection or disposal. Some people disposed of their refuse in gulleys leading into the sea. Some may have dug pits in their properties, and buried their refuse. Later there was a declared site on a piece of ground excised from the public land which was a Nature Reserve, at the entrance to Betty's Bay.

The dump was condemned by the consultants of the then Betty's Bay Municipal Council, as far back as 1982 and 1983. The area of the dump has major ecological considerations which make it unsuitable for a dump, or even a properly managed waste site, quite apart from the unacceptable possibility or even probability, of contamination of swamp and wetlands and rivers by the site.

As if this were not enough, the area provides a corridor which is a communication link from the genetic point of view, between the Kogelberg State Forest, and the flora and animals of the natural area of the Blesberg.

For the dump, a trench was dug, with soil banks on either side of it. The rubbish was dumped in the trench, burnt, and covered with soil. The dangers of Dioxins produced in burning, were not known then.

The Municipal Council realized that the dump was in the drainage path of a stream or wetland, which soaked through to a stream which winds its way through the land on its way to the sea. The possible elution of dangerous substances from the plastic bags worried the Council, and they asked Peter Slingsby to identify a user friendly site for a new dump, which he did. Unfortunately politics intervened, in the form of a new Council, which meant that the change was never implemented.

The numbers of people who built in Betty's Bay increased considerably after the arrival of electricity to replace generators, candles and lamps. The dump therefore became much more of an eyesore at the entrance to Betty's Bay, as well as being potentially damaging to the environment and its human component. It was condemned by the Department of Water Affairs who instructed the Hangklip Kleinmond Municipality to close it.

The Municipality engaged consultants to find a suitable and safe waste site. This was a long drawn out process with much public participation, as there was no place suitable for a dump in Hangklip Kleinmond, due to the geological formations, and the presence of highly sensitive ecological areas and unique fynbos of significance to the whole world.

Thus it was decided to find a regional site for the three towns, Hangklip Kleinmond, Bot River and Hermanus. Karwyderskraal was finally selected. Other areas were to have transfer stations for collecting the refuse before transported to Karwyderskraal.

The Transfer station in Kleinmond was built, and proved effective. Meanwhile the condemned dump in Betty's Bay was used until money could be found to build Betty's Bay's transfer station. Finally the planned station was found to be too expensive and too large, so it was decided that the Hangklip villages would use the Kleinmond Transfer station.

This meant that the Betty's Bay dump could at last be rehabilitated. Rob MacFarlane was appointed as consultant, and a small committee was formed to help and advise him with this and planning the recycling of useable waste, save energy, create jobs, and extend the life of Karwyderskraal.



TOPSOIL BEING PLACED OVER CLAY CAPPING

The rubbish in the dumped plastic bags already at the old dump, was arranged by a bulldozer into a shaped hillock to blend with the shape of the surrounding ground. This was then covered by an impervious layer of clay, to prevent the rain from leaching out the potentially dangerous materials from the plastic bags. A covering of soil was added as a growing medium for fynbos seeds which will be taken from the surrounding area, at the appropriate season. The soil was obtained from a drainage ditch at the base of, and around the hillock. This ditch leads to a pond at the lowest point of the ground, from which water samples can be taken for testing for possible pollutants. If these are found the pond will be pumped out and the water taken to the sewage works for treatment.

The alien invasive kikuyu grass polluting the area from previous dumping will be killed by spraying. We shall land up finally with a beautifully shaped, fynbos vegetated little hill, which will blend in with the area in which it lies. You can see the improvement already.

AVRIL NUNN & ROELF ATWELL

WAT SÊ DIE MANNE?

IN THE PREVIOUS EDITION OF THE BREEZE YOUNG ROOI ELSERS SPOKE ABOUT WHAT THEY VALUED ABOUT ROOI ELS AND HOW THEY SAW ROOI ELS IN 15 YEARS' TIME.

HERE ARE THE VIEWS OF SOME OF OUR MEN

DAWID VAN DER MERWE

HOE LANK IS JY AL OP ROOI ELS?

Ek kom meer as 18 jaar lank hier byna elke naweek. My skoonfamilie het 'n huis hier gehad. Nou bly ek permanent op Rooiels.

WAT WAARDEER JY DIE MEESTE OMTRENT ROOI ELS?

Ek is mal oor Rooi Els: die volmaan se weerkaatsing op 'n kalm see, die donkermaan se skitterende sterreheemel, die laatmiddag son wat die berge tooi in rooi, die breek van die branders op vlymskerp rotse, die gekerm van seevoëls, die blaas van 'n walvis wat die ritmiese nagstilte versteur, die aromatiese mengsel van seelug, vrottende kelp en fynbos, die skaterlag van my kinders wat baljaar in die lagoon, my vrou wat lê en tan, my hond, Lucy, wat snuffel op die strand, haar pelle, Boetman, Clara en Tony, die Suidooster wat my kop skoon hou van enige ambisie, koerant koop by die Village Shop, koffie drink by die Gallery, eiers eet by Cats, en koue bier by die Arms, praat met oom Johan, Gerry, chill met Andreas, 'n sigaretjie deel met Gina, faksie gevegte, tannies wat body surf, tannies wat agiteer, tannies wat keer, stofstrate, almal in Rooi Els.



JOHN NIEMEYER

WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT ROOI ELS?

Living in proximity to nature, whales, fynbos, birds, the sea..

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

I would like to see it develop aesthetically along environmentally sound lines - I would especially welcome more building restrictions and controls. I want to see our roads kept narrow and untarred, more speed humps, all alien vegetation removed and people living in harmony with the baboons. I would also like to see the big beach proclaimed as a "no prawn pumping" area - at the moment the prawns are literally being pumped by hundreds of people.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP ACHIEVE THIS?

Keep an eye open with my telescope, report poaching, write letters to stop subdivisions, look after the baboons and look after my own property.

WILLIE PIENAAR

HOE LANK HET JULLE AL 'N HUIS HIER?

30 jaar. Ons het een naweek agter ons neuse aan hierheen gery en Harriet Wall het ons hierdie huis gewys. Ek het dit vir R14 000 gekoop. Dit was destyds bekend as Drostersnes.

WAT WAARDEER JY DIE MEESTE OMTRENT ROOI ELS?

Die natuur, die see, die stilte, die veranderinge wat redelik georden geskied - alhoewel daar op die oomblik te veel kommersialisasie is na my smaak. Dis 'n waardering wat aangepas het soos die tye verander het. Na 18jr sonder krag was ons een van die eerstes wat elektrisiteit gekry het. Ek wil graag ook sien dat die paaie 'n permanente oppervlakte kry, ek haat 'n vuil kar.

WAT BEHOORT DIE GEMEENSAP VAN ROOI ELS NOG TE DOEN?

Stappaadjies, 'n paar sitbanke (ek sal 'n bydrae gee). Ons moet Rooiels verder hou soos hy is en nie onderverdeling of trosbehuising toelaat nie. Ons moet ons natuur en wild bewaar. Ons moet veral ons honde in toom hou. Dit bly 'n unieke plek. Elke erf is iets besonder met 'n unieke uitsig. Ons mag nie blasé raak nie!



BIRD CHAT

Summer yes, but have you seen any European Swallows (*Roberts 518*) yet? The Sahara is getting bigger and the number of migratory birds surviving the journey are getting fewer, when those that make it reach South Africa they are staying in the Northern areas.

Terns (particularly Swift Common and White-winged) down at the Point are making up for them with the young birds staying in the area, because of the mild winter which we had, has kept their food plentiful. The Whimbrel (*Roberts 290*) Common Sandpiper and Three banded Plover were also much more in evidence than usual. The supply of frogs has brought in Squacco (*Roberts 72*) and Greenbacked Night Herons (*Roberts 74*).

Black Oystercatchers are seen on most days, to the observation of a homeowner that they cannot be endangered; "I see them every day!" Hopefully they are breeding on a sandy patch in a rocky area away from predators and dogs. Yes, unfortunately, there are still too many people walking their dogs not on a lead. Yes, they may be well behaved, but they still chase and hurry after birds (scattering mothers and chicks, destroying ground nests, eggs and chicks) and small animals. PLEASE keep your dogs on a lead, when walking.

Our pair of Egyptian Geese have excelled themselves this year with eight of their ten brood surviving. Look out for them on the Point. Amazingly they WALK them from the fresh water of the lagoon to the seawater EVERY morning - but you need to be early to catch them.

Look out for nests this summer and please note them down and let us know, e.g. in our garden, we have a Barthroated Apalis (*Roberts 645*) nest in an Acacia, a Speckled Mousebird (*Roberts 424*) nest in a hedge and Spotted Prinia (*Roberts 686*) nest in a Milkwood. We have also had Bully Canary (*Robert 877*), Cape Robin, Cape Wagtail and Cape Bulbul nesting.

Data is getting "hot" to prove the need for the continuation of conservation and money allocation for research. Therefore, all information is vital. Has the fire given you any different birds in your garden? Also, it is very important to note what is in your garden - even if ONLY a sparrow (but it could be a Greyheaded Sparrow (*Roberts 804*) - only added to our list last year). Our bird list is at 170, these can be obtained from the Eco Centre - all data helps.

The dirt road to the smallholdings has become a priority destination in the South Western Cape for National and International Birding Tours - great or yuck? Great because it increases bird awareness, but yuck because you really ought to hear what they say, when they do not even see or hear *the* bird! We have five endemics in Rooi Els - did you know this? Cape Sugarbird, Orangebreasted Sunbird, Protea Canary (*Roberts 880*), Cape Rockjumper (*Roberts 611*) and Cape Siskin (*Roberts 874*) with a possibility of a sixth, Victorins Warbler (*Roberts 641*), which is why they come here.

Have you thought that perhaps you were in Europe when hearing the Kelp Gulls screeching? Well this is because there are many more here and they are nesting so they are marking out their territories - look out for them in a prominent position on the rocks. Please do not feed them, they could become worse than the baboons!

The new edition of *Roberts* will now be out by June 2005, or so they hope. It has been a mammoth task. The numbers given here are *Roberts 6* (not 7 which are vastly different) and until they have completed their work, can still be liable to alter, as they continue to DNA certain species in the research labs around the world.

So happy hols and birding and keep your observations and data coming!

ALISON AYRE & HELEN JONES
028-2738205



DON'T FORGET THE ROOIELS INSECTS!

Much is written about the fynbos and its unique array of plants which characterise the Cape region. Much less emphasis has been given to the insects that occupy this region and are associated with the rich diversity of plants. Many of the insects are small and drably coloured so they blend into the background and are difficult to see. Often the only hint that insects are about is the calls they make, particularly at night.

One of these is the large green bladder locust which is common around Rooiels. On warm evenings they can be heard making their mournful "schweep" sound. They are also attracted to lights and not infrequently arrive in dwellings at night. These are thumb-sized insects with a body which is largely filled with air, hence their common name. This air space acts as a resonator which amplifies the sound they make while scraping their legs against a row of hardened lumps on their abdomen. The bladder locusts make up a whole family (the Pneumoridae) of grasshoppers (Orthoptera) which only occur in Southern Africa, with the exception of one or two species extending as far north as Kenya.



A BLADDER LOCUST WHICH ARRIVED IN MY HOME ON FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER. IT WAS ONE OF MANY THAT WERE CALLING ON THE SURROUNDING FYNBOS AND PROVIDED US WITH CONSIDERABLE ENTERTAINMENT AS IT "SCHWEEPED" THE NIGHT AWAY ON OUR DOOR STEP.

Another very special assemblage of insects that occurs in the South Western Cape is the newly-discovered Order of so called 'heel walkers' (the Mantophasmatodea). This group of a few named species is the first new Order of insects to be discovered in nearly a hundred years. They are aggressive carnivores which clamber over bushes preying on other types of insects. Although not uncommon they are largely nocturnal and seldom seen. The discovery of this entirely new group emphasises how little we know about the numbers and types of insects around us.

Among the most spectacular and colourful insects to be seen around Rooiels are various types of beetles, especially the large protea beetles and the jewel beetles which develop in dead wood. The monkey beetles are another special group belonging to a family (Hoplininae) that is also only found in Southern Africa. These often furry and colourful beetles frequent flowers, especially those in the daisy family (Compositae), where they feed and seek mates. The life cycle of the monkey beetles remains a mystery and very little is known about the development of the immature stages again showing our lack of knowledge.

Another prominent group of insects is the long tongue flies which are associated with elongate tubular flowers in the fynbos. These flies have highly modified mouthparts which protrude from the front of the head and may be several times longer than the body that bears them. They are important pollinators and ensure the continued survival of many of the plants we cherish.

So wherein lies the rub? Right on our door step we have a very special assemblage of little known insects. There is no doubt that they play an essential role in the function of the fynbos biome in many different ways. Some of these functions are known (e.g. pollination; food for birds, frogs and baboons!), but others have yet to be discovered. Our urge to build larger houses with more extensive lawns and expansive paved areas is destroying the habitat that the insects need. Contrary to popular belief most insects require very special conditions for their survival often a particular type of plant in a particular locality. Even slight modifications to these conditions can render areas unsuitable for the original insect occupants.

Disappearance of the insects leaves birds (including our famous rock jumpers and ground woodpeckers) and other animals that depend on them without food and they dwindle or move away. Should we not ensure that the vegetation that belongs here is left intact as far as is possible when building our luxury accommodation and developing the surrounds?

JOHN HOFFMANN

FYNBOS CENTRE IN BETTY'S BAY

More people are beginning to take advantage of the services offered at the Crassula Community Hall and the Lakeside Care Centre. Several members now enjoy their midday meal on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, while others receive meals in their homes. All meals are lovingly prepared by a splendid team of volunteers. The nursing services also, have been a comfort to those struggling with health problems. We are truly blessed to have a team of retired volunteer nursing sisters so willing to serve our community

The Centre would like to see other residents from Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els join up as members and support it's efforts to build up a caring community along this part of our coast. Every resident can play a part and no one ought to feel excluded. The very name Fynbos suggests diversity. The amazing variety, number, shape and colour of the plants about us, each one are as different and varied as the men and women who have settled in this beautiful Hangklip area.

The primary mission of Fynbos Centre is to keep those who are growing older in their own homes for as long as possible safe, happy and cared for. There will come a 'crunch time' for each one who has chosen to settle or retire here, when they can no longer manage on their own, and either have to uproot and move elsewhere or depend on others for help. The Fynbos Centre can play an important role in each person's retirement planning.

GRAHAM RAMSAY

FYNBOS VOLUNTARY SERVICES.

MEALS:

Sit-down or take-away meals are available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 12.00 at a cost of R12.00 each for members or R15.00 for non-members, at the Crassula Hall in Betty's Bay. Booking is essential. For those unable to afford the full cost of a meal, meals are subsidised; take-away meals are also delivered by volunteers to the house-bound when required. Meals at the Crassula Hall in Betty's Bay are cooked at home by a team of volunteers and delivered hot to the hall.

HOME-CARE:

Retired volunteer nursing sisters registered with the SA Nursing Council and assisted by trained home volunteers, attend very sick residents under the direction of their medical doctor, in their homes in Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay and Rooi Els. Nursing equipment such as hospital beds, wheel chairs, commodes, crutches etc. are available on loan at a modest charge.

HEALTH-CARE:

A range of health-care services are provided at the Care Centre in Lakeside Drive, Betty's Bay. The centre is staffed by volunteer nursing sisters and is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.00 to 11.30.

WEIGHT-LOSS CLINIC:

A weight-loss clinic is held every Wednesday at the Care Centre in Betty's Bay from 9.00 to 12.00

THOUSANDS OF SMALL FISH ARE MOVING ALONG IN THE SHALLOWS: A FLOCK, A FLIGHT UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE WATER, DIPPING AND RISING, LOOSE-SPINED; THEIR FINS, ROWING, ARE MINUTE AND PRECISE; THEY ARE ENERGY-PACKETS; SIX WOULD FIT INTO A THIMBLE, ALL GAUZE AND GLAZE, AND ALL TRANSLUCENT - THE PIPELINE OF APPETITE CLEAR IN EACH BODY. THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS A THRONG OF RAINBOWS, A POD, AN ENORMOUS PACK, YET THEY SWING ALONG AS A SINGLE RAINBOW, ONE WING, ONE THING, ONE TRAVELER. THEIR MOUTHS ARE OPEN, FIERCE COLANDERS SCOOPING IN THE DIATOMS. THEY TURN TO THE RIGHT, THE LEFT. THEY DASH AND HOVER.

IT IS SUMMER, THE LONG TWILIGHT. I STARE AND STARE INTO THE WATER. I SAY TO MYSELF, WHICH ONE AM I?"

- MARY OLIVER

ROOI, ROOIER, ROOISTE GETY

Die rooiste rooi gety het heel dramaties in Valsbaai verskyn. Dit was asof iemand enorme houers rooibruin verf kuslangs in die water gegooi het. Die verskillende winde het dit herwaarts en derwaarts gewaai maar onderkry was min. Die plankton het gedry.

Die massas plankton in die water het egter snags 'n manjifieke skouspel van ligspeling op die water geskep. Veral toe die noordwester die see opgesweepte het in duisende klein deininge. By donkermaan was die see 'n donker skildery oortrek met ontelbare ligstrepies, tot by die gesigseinder. Golwe van blou-pers lig het manjiefek voor op die rotse gebreek.

Tydens laatmiddag duike, het dit my opgeval, dat die boonste twee meters seewater baie warm en dig-rooi van die plankton was. Dieper was dit koud en helder onder die rooigety.

Op pad uit die see uit vind ek een middag 'n enorme rob wat in die loutervlakwater lê, sy linker vin omhoog en sy stertvin skoon bo die water uit. Sy lyf is in 'n boog getrek, sy oë is toe en sy mond effens oop, sodat ek sy tande duidelik kan sien.

Ek kom baie naby aan hom waar hy luilekker in die vlakwater dryf-swem. Hy steur hom glad nie aan my nie. Maak nie eers sy oë oop nie. Hy lyk asof hy weggevoer is na 'n wêreld van ongekende skoonheid en oorvloed.

Is dit die warmte, wonder ek? Hy is totaal betower. Of het die plankton, 'n strelende of medisinale effek? Toe wonder ek ook of daar nie dalk iets is wat ek gemis het nie, maar ek voel niks nie. Miskien hoor hy wonderbaarlike musiek, die laaste arias van die sterwend plankton divas, wat alle kreature wat hulle musiek kan hoor tot ekstase verhef?

Ek luister aandagtig, my oë is toe en my mond effens oop, en..

EVETTE WEYERS

N.S. Hulle het gesê hierdie soort rooi gety is nie giftig nie, maar kan by herhaalde aanraking tot uiterse ligsinigheid lei...

LUMINESCENCE

Some plankton is luminescent, and when mechanically disturbed produce what fishermen have, for ages, called "firewater". Plankton can control the production of light, switching it on or off, but the purpose of their luminescence remains obscure.

Luminescence differs from phosphorescence in that it is the result of chemical energy being converted into light energy, while phosphorescence requires an outside source of light. This is why a display of plankton luminescence is best on dark nights when the sea is disturbed by wind and waves.

JENNY STARK

VOLGENS CRAIG SPENCER, NATUURBEWARINGSBEAMPTER VIR OVERSTRAND WAS HIERDIE BETROKKE VORM VAN ROOIGETY TUSSEN ROOIËLS EN GORDONSBAAI NIE GIFTIG NIE. DIT IS VEROORSAAK DEUR 'N OPWELLING VAN PLANKTON

NOTICE OF RERA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

32ND AGM OF ROOIËLS RATEPAYERS'
ASSOCIATION

DATE: WEDNESDAY 29 DECEMBER 2004

TIME: 17:00

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF R60
SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM 16:30

VENUE: ERF 239 ROOIËLS
NICK AUGUSTIDES' HOME

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR!

HOE DONKER WORD DIT NOU LANGS DIE KUS VAN VALSBAAI
DORPE LANGS DIE STRAND KNIËL OP FYNBOSKNIËE TERWYL KOOLSTOF,
VERBLOEM AS FOSFOR, GROENGEVLEK IN LUI NEONBUISE OP DIE BRANDING SPEEL

MELANIE GROBLER, UIT: GRONDKOMBERS, DIE WATERBREKER

ROOIGETY OP PAD NA ROOIELS SKOUSPEL GEDURENDE OKTOBER EN NOVEMBER



FASCINATING VYGIES

Vygie means small fig in Afrikaans. Vygies get this name because their tiny young fruits look a bit like figs. They have interesting seed capsules. They open in wet weather and the seeds are splashed out by heavy drops of rain. The capsules have special membranes that stop all the seeds from being washed out at one time. When it is dry again, the capsules close up around the remaining seeds keeping them safe until the next rainy day. In this way small amounts of seed are released over several rainfall events – an important survival strategy in areas where rain is unpredictable. Vygies belong to the family Mesembryanthemaceae (pronounced 'mee-zem-bree-anthem-ay-ee') Quite a mouthful! We call them mesembs for short. They are also known as midday flowers, because some of them only open at midday, when it is hot and sunny. The brightness of their flowers is caused by prism-like cells on the petals which concentrate and reflect the light.

KIRSTENBOSCH NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDENS



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