

# Bries Breeze

LENTE/SPRING 2006

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



SPRING FLOWERS AROUND CONTAINER BAY ROOI-ELS WITH HANGKLIP IN THE DISTANCE

## DIE REGTE VERHOUDING

Die lente verras my altyd. Dis asof haar baldadige vreugde en oorfloed ook iewers in my eie hart weerklank vind. Hierdie weerklank herinner my aan my eie konneksie met die natuur en met die Rooiels gemeenskap. Dit herinner my dat ons as mense altyd in verhouding staan met ons omgewing - met mekaar en ook met die res van die skepping.

Ons word in verhoudings gevorm en gemaak wat ons is. John Donne het al honderde jare gelede geskryf; *"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main"*. Ons is altyd deel van 'n groter gemeenskap - wat ook ander spesies en die aarde onder ons voete insluit. Thomas Berry het gesê; *"the world is not a collection of objects, but a community of subjects."*

Om 'n goeie lid van enige gemeenskap te wees beteken om respek te hê vir ander in daardie gemeenskap. Een van die pynlikste dinge om te hoor is "Ek het jou gebruik" of "Ek is gebruik". Dis 'n skadelike mite van ons moderne samelewing dat ek net vir myself geluk kan bekom, ten koste van die res. Niemand kan geluk verkry deur die uitbuiting van ander nie. As mense is ons uit die stof van die aarde gevorm. Ons is deel van die aarde. Die aarde maak ons wat ons is. Ek kan nie welvaart vir myself deur uitbuiting van die res van die skepping bekom nie, ewe min as wat my brein sou kon besluit om my lewer te myn!

Die Bries is 'n weerspieëling van ons verhoudings as lede van 'n gemeenskap. Ons is 'n diverse, interessante, kreatiewe en soms koppige klomp mense bymekaar wat "gemene grond" vind in die grond onder ons voete. Dis 'n gedeelde waardering vir die wonder van die natuur wat ons op Rooiels bymekaar bring, die bande tussen ons sterk maak en soveel vreugde bring.

ESTELLE RAYMOND  
REDAKTEUR (E-POS: [eraymond@mweb.co.za](mailto:eraymond@mweb.co.za))

"THE EARTH LAUGHS IN FLOWERS" - EE CUMMINGS

# FROM THE RERA CHAIR RERA AT THE CROSSROADS?

The time has come to ask the Rooi Els community if RERA should continue in its present form, reinvent itself to attract larger community support, integrate with the Rooi Els Conservancy, or, possibly even disband. There are differing views amongst the members of the RERA Exco on RERA's future but there is consensus that Rooi Elers must decide at the end-of-year AGM.

It is a fact that, even if Rooi Elers decide that RERA should continue in its present form, RERA cannot continue to function without renewed community support. In its heyday, RERA enjoyed the membership of the majority of ratepayers. RERA's membership has declined this year to what is probably an all time low (around 12% of ratepayers) and at the last AGM those present struggled to form an executive committee. Is the fact that the Rooi Els Conservancy, which owes its origin to RERA, now has a much stronger and more active membership than RERA, indicative of where the community perceives it should invest its energies? If so, do we keep RERA alive? If so, how without a credible proportion of the community as members and people prepared to accept nomination to the executive committee?

The thinking behind the formation of the Rooi Els Conservancy as a separate organisation from RERA assumed that RERA would continue to deal with issues relating to municipal services and town planning, these being perceived to be more politically contentious, while the Conservancy would focus exclusively upon issues related to conservation. In retrospect, this was naïve on at least two counts. Firstly, conservation has become as political an issue as any other in the Overstrand. Secondly, the principles underlying sustainable living, established internationally by UNESCO and adopted in the National Spatial Development Perspective and the Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework, make these issues inseparable. These principles dictate that all decisions about the management and development of socio-economic and built systems must take account of and protect natural systems in order to ensure sustainable living.

To apply sustainable living principles, RERA must consider conservation issues whenever it deals with any municipal service or town planning issue and the Conservancy must consider socio-economic and built system issues whenever it deals with conservation issues; otherwise the result may not satisfy one or other interested or affected party and be rejected or undermined.

Rooi Els must have one vision and one management plan and, sensibly, one organisation should drive the implementation of that plan to achieve the vision. If more than one organisation exists, there must be a coordinating body on which all organisations are represented and from which the representative to the Ward Committee is nominated. In a large community, this may be feasible; in the small Rooi Els community, can the people-hungry multi-organisation structure be maintained with few prepared to take on active roles?

There are numerous interrelated issues that affect Rooi Els ratepayers upon which a strong, credible representative needs to make a stand and to actively lobby decision-makers. How do you, the ratepayer, want this representation to be effected? The RERA executive committee invites your comment and needs your attendance at the AGM to determine the way forward and to put people onto the executive committee to implement the decision.

ROB FRYER  
RERA CHAIRMAN

## REBV UITVOERENDE KOMITEE



VOORSITTER

ROB FRYER  
Tel: 028-273 8059  
[Fryer.rob@worldonline.co.za](mailto:Fryer.rob@worldonline.co.za)



SEKRETARIS & TESOURIER

DI PERTON  
Tel: 028-273 8041  
[di@peripheral.co.za](mailto:di@peripheral.co.za)



MUNISIPALE  
AANGELEENTHEDE EN  
KLEINHOEWES

MIKE HARRISON  
Tel: 028-273 8569



BOU-AANGELEENTHEDE

GRIZELDA HALL  
Tel: 021-6744637



POLISIE\_FORUM

JOHLENE DEVILLIERS  
Tel: 021-8546699  
[jo00@absamail.co.za](mailto:jo00@absamail.co.za)



ALGEMEEN

BRUCE RELLY  
Tel: 028-2738648  
[brelly@telkomsa.net](mailto:brelly@telkomsa.net)



'THE CONSERVANCY PLAQUE SYMBOLISES THE PASSION OF THE PEOPLE OF ROOI ELS FOR CONSERVATION, THE PROTECTION OF NATURE AND THE SUSTAINING OF THE SPIRIT OF ITS PEOPLE.'

HETTIE CLAASSENS



OUR UNSUNG VOLUNTEERS - CBD FYNBOS GARDENERS HETTIE CLAASSENS, ERNEST THOMPSON, JILL LOCKLEY AND JANETTE YATES

# A SIGN OF COMMITMENT

HOW DO YOU FIT 80 ROOI ELSERS INTO ONE ROOM?

YOU INVITE THEM TO A ROOI ELS CONSERVANCY EVENT!

Yes, an enthusiastic group of some 80 Rooi Elsers squeezed into the Café Rio restaurant on a chilly April evening to be updated on Conservancy's activities. (Thank you, Café Rio, for allowing us to take over your premises!) Those who could fit inside (or had the enthusiasm to hover outside the open doorways), heard news of:

- Regular get-togethers between Rooi Els Conservancy chairperson, Estelle Raymond, and Cecile Jonkheid, our Municipal Manager. This liaison has reactivated the long-awaited registration of our local Nature Reserves, (although this course of action has been delayed as Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay have joined the process and a consultant has been appointed).
- The "Adopt-a-Road" initiative where neighbours agree to plant indigenous plants along their road verges, creating litter-free, pristine 'fynbos corridors' through the village. Remember...verges are not a part of your property but Municipal land, and should be left as untouched as possible during building process. As more and more houses are being built, Rooi Els is losing more and more fynbos. It is vital that we retain the fynbos along our roads. Please speak to Chris Burlock (273 8278) about what you can do to be part of the "Adopt-a-Road" project.
- People were also to join the "Adopt-a-Beach" initiative; a litter clean-up project that will participate in BirdLife Africa's pioneering CleanMarine programme. (This is not just collecting litter; but by counting and trying to uncover the source of the plastics on our beaches, the programme intends to curb the problem. For example, when data revealed just how big a danger discarded cable-ties had become to marine life, CleanMarine immediately produced an educational leaflet that school-children passed out to recreational Crayfishermen highlighting the problem!)
- Rooi Elsers were also asked to declare "War on Weeds", every year 'wiping out' three selected alien weeds from their properties and on their walks. This year the 3 alien weeds are Fountain grass (the pretty but frighteningly invasive plumed grass that is rapidly displacing fynbos as you drive into Gordon's Bay and which is now in several verges in our village!), the common Horse weed and Bunny tail grass which will start sprouting up soon.



# A CELEBRATION OF COMMITMENT

(CONTINUED)

Rooi Elers willingly signed a commitment to conserve the natural splendour of the area. This pledge is now on display on the Conservancy Community notice board outside the Eco-Centre. If you want to add your signature, please speak to Chris Burlock who will gladly open the notice-board for you.

But the highlight of the meeting was the unveiling of the beautiful, mosaic Conservancy sign at the village entrance. The logo depicts a Cape Clawless otter, (symbolic of a healthy environment), backed by the shape of the iconic Klein Hangklip mountain. The mosaic and the rock, mountain-shaped wall that holds it were kindly donated by Sandra Yeo.

And as the sun set, the audience enjoyed a virtuoso performance on the flute by Carina Bruwer. Carina's jazz and pop-classics had the audience begging for more...but they also loved the opportunity to question her about her feats as a long-distance, open-water swimmer. Carina is only the third person to swim across False Bay, (her 36 km, Rooi Els to Simonstown swim is the same distance as the English Channel, which she has also conquered!)

The Conservancy Committee plan to hold more meetings this year...(see details on the next page). But where? When, oh when will Rooi Els get its much needed Community Centre?

CHRIS BURLOCK



JENNY STARK INTRODUCES VIRTUOSO FLAUTIST CARINA BRUWER



## HETTIE SE TOESPRAAK

Vir jare lank was Rooi Els gelukkig genoeg om mense te hê wat groot opofferinge gemaak het en insette gelewer het op die gebied van natuurbewaring. As mens vandag om jou kyk is dit moeilik om te glo dat ons in 'n rooikranswoud sou leef as dit nie was vir die mense wat dit vir soveel jare al bestry nie. In Rooi Els werk ons dus eintlik al vir generasies lank aan die handhawing van die natuur.

Met die verklaring van Rooi Els tot Bewarea beweeg ons nog 'n stap verder om van Rooi Els 'n besondere plek te maak, met RERA/REBV wat soos 'n ysberg lê onder al die goeie goed wat ons vandag sien.

Rooi Els beteken vir elkeen iets besonder - die stilte, die plante, die diere, die see - elkeen het sy eie spesiale plek. Die Bewarea bied aan ons mense die geleentheid om iets terug te gee aan die plek wat vir óns so ontsettend baie gee. Die Bewarea werk soos 'n legkaart met baie stukkies. As elkeen van ons net verantwoordelik is vir die toepassing van Bewarea-riglyne op ons eie stukkie, kan ons álmal 'n noemenswaardige bydrae tot die groter prentjie lewer.

Daar word gesê dat daar drie mites is wat die mens se destruktiewe status quo in stand hou, naamlik "daar is genoeg spasie", "daar is genoeg tyd" en "dis iemand ander se werk". As ons in Rooi Els saamwerk kan ons die spasie en die tyd wat vir ons gegun is benut om nie net die natuur te bewaar nie, maar ook ons eie lewenskwaliteit en plesier te verbeter.

HETTIE CLAASENS

4

"BEWARING IS BESKAWING"

# CONSERVANCY NEWS

## PROTEA SEEDLING SUCCESS!

Hundreds of Protea babies should be springing up along Rooi Els verges and gardens judging by the number of *compacta*, *nerifolia*, *aulux* and yellow topped cone bush seedlings that have been dispensed in this Conservancy drive. Having been such a success (but running out of rainy season for this year,) the committee will try and arrange more seedlings for next winter. A big thank you must go to Robbie Thomas of Betty's Bay and his teams of seed collectors and sorters (did you know that only about 3% of Protea seeds are viable?)



## ON THE 'VERGE' OF DISASTER!

Property owners please take note; your property extends to the edge of the road reserve and **not** to the road itself! The verge belongs to the Municipality and should be left as pristine fynbos, only disturbed by your entrance driveway.

One of the Conservancy's major objectives is to try and conserve as much indigenous fynbos within the village as possible. As more and more homes are built we are losing more and more fynbos. Obviously we would like to encourage everyone to enjoy indigenous gardens. And one of the Conservancy's major objectives is to retain our road verges as pristine fynbos corridors. Not only will this add visual enjoyment to our walks, but encourage sunbirds and other fynbos propagators to get on with their work making possible the ongoing renewal of plant species within the village.



## SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE LAW!

Our local by-laws state that the light from your house may not spill over your property boundary. Unfortunately many houses in Rooi Els transgress this law! A good way to check if you are compliant is to go outside on a moonless night and see if you can spot your shadow when on your property edge or on the road outside. We have deliberately resisted streetlights over the years in order to be some of the lucky few in South Africa to still be able to enjoy star-filled night stars in all their beauty. Let's all get legal and keep light pollution to a minimum as the village grows!

## 'WAR-ON-WEEDS'

**Horseweeds** (*Conyza sumatrensis* and *C. bonariensis*) are mostly in their low leaf, pre-seeding stage at present, but should be pulled out before their flower heads get the chance to flower and dispense seed.)

**Bunny tail grass** (*Lagurus ovatus*) has died down but all last summer's seed is getting ready to do its worst! Please pull out heads before the get a chance to spread seed again this summer.

**Fountain Grass** (*Pennisetum secaceum*) has been found on the corner where Harveya joins Ocean View (outside erf 229 & 230) and on the Nature Reserve verge (opposite erf 217). Although the heads have been removed and the root-stock poisoned, please keep your eyes peeled for new seedlings!



## "HEALTH & HACK-IT CLUB" FOR HIRE!

Thanks to decades of blood, sweat and beers of dedicated Rooi Elers, our village verges are possibly the cleanest along the KBR coastline when it comes to alien invasives! They have removed literally thousands of Rooikrans, Port Jackson and Myrtle. Although the hack group focus on verges and public spaces, the team often helps property owners by removing aliens from private properties...at a fee that helps maintain poison bottles, loppers, saws and chain-saws.

The Conservancy meeting with our local Municipal Manager has revealed that the Municipality is sending out demands to property owners who still have illegal aliens on their property. The Municipality allows property owners a period of 45 days to clear their erf of aliens. If not done by deadline, the authorities will send in their own contractor and charge R per square metre! For those Rooi Elers on their list, the good news is that the Hack group is for hire at half that rate (but on a first come first served basis.) Please contact Hack Group head, Werner Modinger (028- 273 8032) ([modinger@lantic.net](mailto:modinger@lantic.net)) if you need aliens removed.

# BEWAREA NUUS

## 'N PETROLSAAG VIR DIE KAPGROEP!

Die Kapgroep werk hard om die Rooikrans en ander indringers uit te roei en om die verspreiding van Rooikranssaad te keer. Ons toerusting begin nou oud raak en dalk is daar iewers 'n petrolsaag wat nie gebruik word nie? Of miskien kan jy help deur 'n donasie te maak vir die aankoop van 'n nuwe saag (dit kos omtrent R5000). As jy 'n bydrae wil maak kan dit in die Bewarea se rekening inbetaal word (Rooi Els Conservancy, ABSA Spaarrekening Nommer 912 669 4863 Takkode 334312). Onthou om jou naam en 'SAAG' op die strokie te sit. Tjeks kan aan die Rooiels Bewarea (aandag Dick Lockley) gestuur word by Posbus 343, Bettysbaai, 7141.

## INDRINGER-ONKRUID

Ons padreserwes begin geleidelik beter te lyk. Is dit omdat Rooielsers besig is om die indringer-onkruid te verwyder ... of is dit omdat die sade hierdie tyd van die jaar nog laaglê? Ons het agtergekom hoe moeilik dit is om van die sg 'Fountain grass' (*Pennisetum secacum*) onslae te raak. As jy hierdie indringer grassoort iewers raaksien, merk dit asb op die kaart in die Ekosentrum sodat ons kan reël om dit met gif te behandel. Daar is ook paaltjies geplant by hierdie indringers in Ocean View Rylaan.. so as jy verbystap help asb om van die indringers onslae te raak.

## KOM LUISTER EN KUIER SAAM

Na die Bewarea byeenkomste waar meer as 80 Rooielsers die onthuldiging van die Bewarea logo en die fluitspel van Carina Bruwer geniet het, asook die praatjie oor geologie deur Dr John Rogers, is daar alweer 'n paar lekker dinge in die vooruitsig:

SATERDAG 4 NOVEMBER, 11HOO: "SWARTTOBIES"

PLEK: BONNY BANKS, 372 LOVER'S WALK 372 (NA DIE 'HACK')

Sarah Starke is die enigste persoon in SA wat Swarttobie-kuikens suksesvol grootgemaak en vrygelaat het. Sy deel haar wonderlike fotos hieroor met ons. Moet dit nie misloop nie!

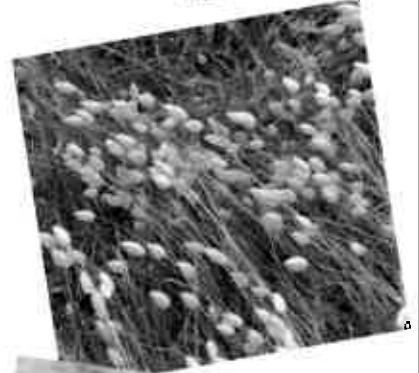
SATERDAGAAND 28 OKTOBER: IAN MC CALLUM PRAAT OOR SY BOEK "ECOLOGICAL INTELLIGENCE"

PLEK: TOM BAIGRIE SE HUIS, ERF 102  
(AGTER DIARMUID BAIGRIE SE HUIS)

Dick Lockley en Charlie Simonz het Dr Ian McCallum (oud Springbok rugbyspeler, psigiater en natuurkenner) uitgenooi om met Rooielesers kom gesels oor sy nuwe boek "Ecological intelligence".

Skakel Kay Lereche (028) 273 8742 vir meer inligting hieroor.

KRY JOU BEWAREA-TEKEN BY DIE 'VILLAGE SHOP' VIR R30



## BEWAREA KOMITEE

ESTELLE RAYMOND: [eraymond@mweb.co.za](mailto:eraymond@mweb.co.za)

JENNY STARK: [wonderlings@iafrica.com](mailto:wonderlings@iafrica.com)

DICK LOCKLEY: [dicklock@global.co.za](mailto:dicklock@global.co.za)

WERNER MODINGER: [modinger@lantic.net](mailto:modinger@lantic.net)

DEBBY DE VRIES: [rooiels@isat.co.za](mailto:rooiels@isat.co.za)

CHRIS BURLOCK: [izulu@mweb.co.za](mailto:izulu@mweb.co.za)

KAY LERECHÉ: [kayml@telkomsa.net](mailto:kayml@telkomsa.net)

SANDRA YEO: [sey@telkomsa.net](mailto:sey@telkomsa.net)

ALISON LEWIS: [alison@chemeng.uct.ac.za](mailto:alison@chemeng.uct.ac.za)

IAN LEWIS: [ianlewis@iafrica.com](mailto:ianlewis@iafrica.com)





# 'DEM STONES...'



Dr John Rogers of the Department of Geological Sciences, University of Cape Town recently gave a talk on the geology of our area which was attended by about 50 people. The talk was organised by the Rooi Els Conservancy. John has recently supervised two postgraduate research projects that have specific bearing on the area in which we live. The first, by Paula Hutcheson, looks at the geology of the coastal terrace between Strand and Kleinmond. The second, by Brian Kastl, examines the geomorphological factors and processes that led to the debris flows in Betty's Bay on 11 April 2005.

Instead of performing empirical experiments, geologists are more frequently found climbing mountains, exploring volcanoes and chipping at rocks. The wide outdoors is their laboratory. Under the open sky they study rocks and sediments in an effort to understand the processes of the past. This is called the *Law of Uniformitarianism* - that the present is the key to

the past and their findings are extrapolated back for millions of years. John said that he has found the converse to be equally true also: "If it has happened, it can happen again."

Paula's study focuses on talus (the slope at the foot of a cliff) deposits in our coastal environment and includes analyses of sediments, rocks, dune, estuary and beach sands. Macro- and microanalyses give some indication of sea level fluctuations induced by periods of global warming and cooling and the effect that these thermal periods have had on mechanical weathering of rocks. The chemical composition of sediments (iron staining and oxidization) results in the dramatic, fiery colours that characterize the road cutting of the R44, with deep red being due to hematite, and orange to the iron hydroxide, limonite. The more vibrant the colour the older the sediment, as oxidation continues over time.

The second study deals with debris flows (land- or rockslides to the layperson). These geological events have long wreaked havoc on people around the world, since the unwanted repercussions for those living in the proximity of unstable slopes range from loss of property and infrastructure, to loss of life sometimes on a massive scale.

Many scientific studies have been done in an effort to derive predictive criteria for debris flows. So far it is known that the flows are typically mobilized on slope gradients of 30-40°. The relative water and sediment composition necessary to trigger such flows, as well as the initiating micro-mechanisms, are slowly becoming better understood.

Brian Kastl has tried to distinguish some of the determinants of the Betty's Bay debris flows of April 11 2005, in the hope that variables can be identified which could be extrapolated to predict similar destructive events in other areas. These include extent of fynbos vegetation, fire history, slope characteristics, rainfall details and composition of debris flow.



JENNY STARK

## LIVING WITHIN THE MEANS OF THE EARTH

Humanity's ecological footprint is a tool that measures how much nature we have, how much we use and who uses what. Go to [www.ecofoot.org](http://www.ecofoot.org) to calculate your own ecological footprint. In 2001, humanity's ecological footprint was 2.5 times larger than in 1961 and exceeded the Earth's biocapacity by about 20 percent. The average human's ecological footprint is 2.2 global hectares, while there are only 1.8 hectares of biologically productive area per person available on the planet. This is called overshoot. It is possible to exceed ecological limits for a while but this deficit spending leads to the destruction of ecological assets on which our economy depends, such as depleted groundwater, collapsing fisheries, CO<sub>2</sub> accumulation and deforestation.

# SNIPPETS FROM THE MUNICIPALITY

## MEET LEON STEYN

Leon Steyn has been appointed Manager: Environmental Services on 1 August. This position has been vacant since Craig Spencer left.

Leon holds a National Diploma in Nature Conservation and has been the manager of the Fernkloof Nature Reserve. He was the investigating and arresting officer in the largest ivory and rhino-horn smuggling case in the late 1970's to the value of more than R1 million, at the time the most valuable and important environmental case in SA. He has also taught various courses such as Legislation and Problem Animal Control at the Cape Technicon as an accredited specialist. He is a keen hiker and enjoys taking part in competitive hiking challenges and is a 4x4 enthusiast.



LEON STEYN  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES

Leon likes to think of himself as one who follows up on his promises and produces the goods. This bodes well for Rooi Els, Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay who will be looking to Leon to finalise the long outstanding matter of the incorporation of various areas into their nature reserves.

## BABOON MANAGEMENT

Sporadic reports of baboons entering the residential areas of Hangklip-Kleinmond are still received by the municipality. Our ward councillor, Louis van Heerden urges local residents to ensure that their properties do not 'invite' or encourage baboon individuals or troops to visit. Domestic refuse should be managed effectively.

The Municipality accepts its important role as one of the parties in refuse management. At the recent Ward Committee meeting it was decided that the refuse collection practice in the Hangklip area be adjusted, for a trial period, to determine the most effective method to be implemented. The proposed adjustment entails that refuse bags only be removed from refuse bins on arrival of the refuse truck at each collection point. This practice should prevent scavenging by baboons and other animals.

Louis requests that local residents refrain from establishing any form of vegetable garden and/or the planting of fruit trees as the availability of fresh fruit and vegetable are open invitations to our baboon friends.

Security measures such burglar bars and security exterior doors have already proved to discourage baboons from entering houses. Baboon-proof refuse bins should be used by property owners, and existing bins converted.

CECILE JONKHEID



CECILE JONKHEID  
AREA MANAGER:  
HANGKLIP-  
KLEINMOND



LOUIS VAN HEERDEN  
WARD COUNCILLOR

## ROOIELS BELASTINGBETALERSVERENIGING LIDMAATSKAP OF SKENKINGS

REBV BANKREKENINGNOMMER: ABSA 29-0016-6152 TAKKODE 334-712  
STUUR LIDMAATBESONDERHEDE AAN: DIE SEKRETARIS, REBV, POSBUS 89,  
BETTY'SBAAI, 7141



# ROADS UPDATE

The Overstrand Municipality commissioned the services of roads consultants to assess the roads in the Kleinmond-Hangklip (Ward 10) area and to advise what should be done to achieve a serviceable and maintainable road condition. The assessment showed that there is insufficient gravel on Rooi Els roads for any routine maintenance procedure to be effective. The gravel thickness on the Rooi Els roads is on average less than that of the roads in any of the other areas assessed but the practical implication for effective road maintenance in Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay is essentially just as critical. What this means is that scraping and rolling the roads will result in only very superficial improvement and is in fact a waste of money. The only effective solution is to upgrade the roads to bring them to the point where routine maintenance can be performed.

At minimum "upgrading" means compacting a 75 mm thick gravel layer, having the correct binding properties, over all roads and ensuring that drainage is directed to minimise water damage and erosion. Preferably, from the long-term cost effectiveness perspective, the roads should be paved.

In practical terms, the Overstrand budget for the current financial year allowed only R450 000 for road maintenance and R1.3M for road upgrading for the whole of Ward 10. These funds are sufficient for upgrading less than 2km of 5m wide road while there are several hundred km's of roads in need of this upgrading! The Ward committee has met with the consultants and discussed options at length at several meetings. Councillor Louis van Heerden has made representations on our behalf to the Executive Mayor and this has resulted in an undertaking to find additional funds for road upgrading this year. The maximum likely to be found is of the order of a further R2M; enough to upgrade another 2km of 5m wide road.

A priority list of roads has been drawn up across the three Hangklip towns. Anemone Road will be the first road in Rooi Els to receive an upgrade. This should happen shortly out of the first R1.75M already available. As further funds are found, Harveya Road (between Anemone and Study Roads) and Ocean View Road (up to Perspicua Road) will be upgraded in that order. These two roads will be upgraded to half their width initially until further funds are found, meaning that oncoming traffic will either have to pull over and wait or travel on road surfaces similar to those that currently exist.

The Ward committee is actively pressing for a more satisfactory solution for the longer term. Realistically, no easy answers are in sight and political lobbying is going to be necessary over an extended period to get funds allocated to Ward 10 and to ensure that Rooi Els receives fair consideration whenever funds are made available. On the bright side, we have had a section of Porter Drive and the dangerous entrance to Roella Road brick paved!

ROB FRYER

## BABOON-PROOF BINS SOON MANDATORY

A new solid waste management by-law is due to be released for public comment for implementation by 1 December 2006. This will make it mandatory for all premises to install and use a baboon-proof bin for refuse with fines for non-compliance. The specs for the bins has still to be clarified but samples have apparently been produced and will be available for inspection at the Municipal building in Betty's Bay.

At present the wording of the by-law requires that bins be installed within 1m of the street boundary of each property. This specification will be contested by the Ward 10 committee which proposes that the specification should be "within 1m of the street boundary or in such other accessible position near to the street boundary agreed with the municipality." You may comment to RERA or directly to the Municipality once the advertisement inviting comment has been published by the Municipality.

## STATISTIEK OOR INBRAKE

Die Rooiels Belastingbetalersvereniging wil graag statistiek opbou oor inbrake in ons dorpie (bobbejane uitgesluit!). Ons hoop om sodoende die inwoners op hoogte te hou van misdaad en die belangrikheid van voldoende sekuriteitsmaatreëls in die gemeenskap te beklemtoon.

Indien u 'n inbraak gehad het sedert Jan 2006, voltooi asb die lys in *The Village Shop*) of stuur die volgende inligting aan Johlene de Villiers per e-pos by [jolo0@absamail.co.za](mailto:jolo0@absamail.co.za): Erf no, adres, eienaar & datum van inbraak asook of dit by die polisie aangemeld is.

RERA WOULD LIKE TO KEEP TRACK OF CRIME IN OUR VILLAGE. IF YOU'VE HAD A BURGLARY SINCE JAN 2006, PLEASE COMPLETE THE LIST AT THE VILLAGE SHOP OR E-MAIL THE DETAILS TO JOHLENE DEVILLIERS AT [jolo0@absamail.co.za](mailto:jolo0@absamail.co.za)

# 'JUST DOING IT...' THE ROOI ELS HEALTH AND HACKIT CLUB

ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH A GROUP OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS BRAVE THE ELEMENTS FOR THE BEST WORKOUT IN TOWN, CLEARING INVASIVE ALIENS SUCH AS ROOIKRANS AND SAVING THE FYNBOS. 'SOUNDS LIKE FUN? YOU BET!

JANE HENDERSON:  
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HACKING?

"Our family has been hacking ever since we bought the property in Rooi Els over 30 years ago in 1975. We saw what happened in various other areas where Rooikrans and Port Jackson have taken over and are determined that Rooi Els should not suffer this fate. It's an ongoing battle - it will never stop, but the fynbos is certainly looking a lot healthier now. I remember when our kids were small how Kay de Villiers used to pay them 1cent per seedling".



ALISTAIR HENDERSON:  
WHY DO YOU HACK?

"I get withdrawal symptoms if I don't! Rooi Els is such a beautiful place to do some very useful exercise. I enjoy hacking - it's a kind of recreation for me."



PHILIPP WAGNER:  
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HACKING AND WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY?

"I've been hacking for 14 years and enjoy the satisfaction of clearing our areas of aliens and overgrowth."

WERNER MODINGER:  
AS KONVENOR VAN DIE KAPGROEP, WAT DOEN JY ALLES?

"Die week voor die kapdag stap ek deur Rooiels en besluit waar dit noodsaaklik is om die indringers uit te kap. Die indringer-situasie is al baie beter in Rooiels maar daar is nog 'n heelwat indringers op die padreserwes. Ek maak die gif aan en maak seker dat die toerusting gereed is."



KAY LERECHÉ:  
"It's really important to get rid of the Rooikrans and nice to get to know people. Alison and Ian Lewis once asked why I never come to the social. Now I do. The social afterwards is great!!"

THE FIT & FABULOUS:  
WERNER MODINGER, KAY LERECHÉ, DIARMUID BAIGRIE AND IAN LEWIS

DAIRMUID BAIGRIE:  
HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN HACKING? DO YOU SEE ANY CHANGE?

"Dennis Cowen got me involved about 20 years ago. I think we've been very successful and have probably eradicated 80% of the Rooikrans that used to be here. Especially, the southern part of Rooi Els has improved amazingly."

IAN LEWIS:  
WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE HACK?  
"The exercise - it's totally different to what I normally do."

# 'JUST DOING IT...'

JOIN THE HEALTH & HACKIT FOR THE BEST WORKOUT EVER!

STORM LEWIS (9 YEARS):

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HACKING AND WHAT KEEPS YOU GOING?

"I think I started in 2004 and have been to most hacks. My mom persuaded me in the beginning, but now I've really gotten into it. I know most people at the hack and most of them know me. They're very nice! I know I can make a difference by helping to get rid of the aliens. I do this because I love Rooi Els."



DICK LOCKLEY:

DO YOU THINK WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

"Yes! We had a Rooikrans jungle in front of our house many years ago. I have pictures of the children when they were young each with a saw."

WE CLEAN UP TOO! HOLLY, STORM AND FYNN DISPOSING OF RUBBISH PICKED UP ON THE BEACH WHILE BRUCE RELLY AND ALISON LEWIS LEND A HAND

JILL LOCKLEY:

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE HACKS?

"The camaraderie! Like Mary Comrie picking up rubbish next to me. When you're doing it together, it's half the chore."



BRUCE RELLY:

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST?

"I certainly enjoy the cardio-vascular exercise opportunity as well as the collection of like-minded people interested in restoring nature. In short: good teas, good company, good ethics and good health!"

MARY COMRIE

MARY COMRIE:

"I like the sense of community. There's a wonderful spirit at the hack."

"SUCCESS IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION.  
THE DOING IS OFTEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE OUTCOME"

ARTHUR ASH





# 'N GEES VAN VRYWILLIGHEID

Toe ons 30 jaar gelede een maal hier kom vakansie hou het (in my ouers se huis), het ons met vreugde ontdedek hoe baie mense Rooi-Els naby aan haar natuurlike staat wou behou. Boonop het soveel mense inderdaad aktief gewerk om dit so te hou. Almal was vrywilligers: van die kappers tot diegene wat die papierwerk gedoen het (o.a. om ons natuurreservaat verklaar te kry, die grootpad agter die berge om na Pringlebaai toe te laat loop, pleks van see-langs). Hierdie gees van omgee en help bewaar was en is steeds die hartslag van ons dorp.

In die laaste dekade het die Natuurbewaringsowerhede se fokus oënskynlik van die "natuur bewaar" verskuif na "die mens in ag neem" as mede- of selfs prioriteitsfaktor. Werkskepping en armoedeverligting is essensieël. Maar ek het myself begin afvra "Wie praat eintlik nou vir die veld en diere?"

Hier in ons biosfeer het ons munisipaliteit ook onlangs bevraagteken of hulle vir natuurbewaring moet betaal. Die omgewings-adviesraad, wat inspraak in die munisipaliteit gehad het oor natuurbewaring, is 'n paar jaar gelede afgeskaf. Dit lyk soms of die feit dat ons 'n biosfeer is en die belangrikheid van die Kogelberg vir biodiversiteit, al hoe minder begin tel. (Die woord biosfeer word nou selde gehoor.) Die Oosterlinge praat van "death by a thousand cuts"; hoe iets stadig doodbloei weens 'n duisend klein skadelike, onverskillige of nalatige handeling.

Gelukkig is daar steeds baie mense in Rooi-Els, en in ons Kogelbergreservaat, wat die fakkels hoog dra vir die natuur, biodiversiteit en die beskerming van die wilde plekke van die aarde. Almal is vrywilligers. Kyk na die staatmakers op die kapgroep, die besture van die Bewaria, REBV, Seewag en KOBIO. Maar kyk ook hoeveel individue daagliks omsien na die natuur en ons omgewing. Ons dorp se hart klop sterk. Dis vrywilligers wat tyd en energie skenk om vir die natuur te praat met passie en deursettingvermoë. Ons kan nie op die munisipaliteit of regering staat maak om vir die natuur op te kom nie. Dit hang van elkeen van ons af om die natuur 'n stem te gee, en om woord by daad te sit.

Baie dankie aan almal wat bydra en ons natuurerfenis hier help koester!

EVETTE WEYERS

"FAR AWAY FROM THE SPOTLIGHT, THERE ARE MILLIONS OF GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS WHO, AROUND THE CLOCK AND AROUND THE WORLD, ROLL UP THEIR SLEEVES AND VOLUNTEER. THESE DEDICATED AND COURAGEOUS INDIVIDUALS ARE IMPORTANT IN THE QUEST FOR A BETTER, FAIRER AND SAFER WORLD."

KOFI ANNAN

"NO ONE CAN LIVE HAPPILY WHO HAS REGARD FOR HIMSELF ALONE AND TRANSFORMS EVERYTHING INTO A QUESTION OF HIS OWN UTILITY; YOU MUST LIVE FOR YOUR NEIGHBOUR, IF YOU WOULD LIVE FOR YOURSELF"

SENECA



INDIFFERENCE, NEGLECT AND  
OPPORTUNISM  
COULD INDEED BLEED OUR  
KOGELBERG  
NATURE RESERVE DRY...

"DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS";  
BUT FOR THE PASSION OF ROOI  
ELERS  
AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS;  
WHO CHANGE THIS EASTERN SAYING  
TO  
"LIFE BY A THOUSAND SMALL ACTS OF  
LOVE".

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELP  
TO CONSERVE OUR NATURAL  
ENVIRONMENT!

# ESME MUNNIK IN MEMORIAM (7/12/1920 TO 11/10/2006)

Esme died at Bridgewater Manor on October 11<sup>th</sup> - a few weeks shy of her 86th birthday. Her love of wide-open spaces and nature in general had been the direct result of her early years in the Karoo where she was born in the local hotel of Hopetown. Not for her the usual pets of a child - her companions were a monkey and a mongoose!

She and her husband Lindsey bought erf 118 Rocklands and built "Watercolours", much of it with their own hands in 1973. They lived there happily until Lindsey's increasing ill-health made them take the reluctant decision to spend part of their week at Bridgewater where they had purchased a cottage. Lindsey's death in 1996 lead Esme to spend two days a week pursuing her aerobics, but returning to her beloved Rooi Els as soon as possible. She was happiest in her "Little Pondokkie" as she called Watercolours and one of her saddest days was its sale in late 2003.

Five years ago she suffered a stroke which left her slightly impaired but not down-hearted. She remained as cheerful as ever and loved to regale us with Rooi Els stories from the early "pre-electricity" days, tales of "that dammed generator", of Rooikat on the lawn, genet in the house, and mongoose marauding in the garden, not to mention assorted reptilian encounter which included Lindsey's shooting of a very large boomslang that had just ingested a nest full of bulbul chicks! We remember her tame wagtail called "Sweetiepie" who regarded their home as has her nest too, a robin who came daily for cheese at the breakfast table, perhaps the same one who nested in her conservatory. We remember her toe to toe encounter with "Charlie" and troop whose occupation of her lounge was not appreciated and left quickly after being dismissed with an outstretched arm and the command "OUT!"

She and Lindsey were adventurers going on gravel in their autovilla where now there is tar, camping when it wasn't fashionable to do so and if they got tired of 'roughing it' would book into a hotel for a good night's sleep and a bath! Though self-contained and apparently reserved she was multi talented, her glass etching was spectacular, even getting her featured on TV. She was totally committed to the world around her and was among other things, a "look out" for Sea Rescue.

Esme was a very special lady who we will miss - a lover of the beautiful, yet simple in her taste.

ALISON AYRE AND HELEN JONES



AND THEREFORE I LOOK UPON EVERYTHING  
AS A BROTHERHOOD AND A SISTERHOOD,  
AND I LOOK UPON TIME AS NO MORE THAN  
AN IDEA,  
AND I CONSIDER ETERNITY AS ANOTHER  
POSSIBILITY,

AND I THINK OF EACH LIFE AS A FLOWER,  
AS COMMON AS A FIELD DAISY,  
AND AS SINGULAR,

AND EACH NAME A COMFORTABLE MUSIC IN  
THE MOUTH  
TENDING AS ALL MUSIC DOES,  
TOWARD SILENCE,

AND EACH BODY A LION OF COURAGE,  
AND SOMETHING  
PRECIOUS TO THE EARTH.

WHEN IT'S OVER, I WANT TO SAY: ALL MY LIFE  
I WAS A BRIDE MARRIED TO AMAZEMENT.  
I WAS THE BRIDEGROOM, TAKING THE WORLD  
INTO MY ARMS.

WHEN IT IS OVER, I DON'T WANT TO WONDER  
IF I HAVE MADE OF MY LIFE SOMETHING  
PARTICULAR, AND REAL.  
I DON'T WANT TO FIND MYSELF SIGHING AND  
FRIGHTENED,  
OR FULL OF ARGUMENT.

I DON'T WANT TO END UP SIMPLY HAVING  
VISITED THIS WORLD.

(EXTRACT FROM: "WHEN DEATH COMES", A POEM BY  
MARY OLIVER)

# ROOIELS GALLERY





PHOTOS BY MIKE LERESCHE



# HOW ARE WE DOING?

Presently there is an enormous abundance of life on our planet; possibly 100 million species. Scientists have already named only about 1,5 million of these species. Here in the Kogelberg biosphere reserve, we have the highest plant biodiversity per square meter in the world. However, as scientists predict that man could wipe out up to 50% of earth's species in this century, it is time to take stock of what we are doing and can do, to look after our treasured fynbos and fauna. Extinctions are a natural occurrence but now they are taking place at a rate 10,000 times faster than ever before in paleontological history. The main threats to species in our area are loss of habitat, over-use of resources, invasive aliens, pollution and islandisation.

SOUTH AFRICA FALLS SHORT OF THE UN AND WORLD CONSERVATION UNION'S RECOMMENDATION THAT 10% OF EACH COUNTRY'S LAND AREA SHOULD BE LEGALLY PROTECTED FOR CONSERVATION. THIS PLACES AN EVEN GREATER DUTY OF EACH ONE OF US TO CONSERVE.

## LOSS OF HABITAT

Our coastal fynbos is particularly vulnerable and most at threat in drier times ahead. There is hardly any coastal fynbos in the core area of the biosphere, so what we do in Rooiels and the smallholdings is crucial.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

Preserve as much as possible of the natural fynbos on your own property. If you replant it is best to plant those fynbos plants which occur naturally in Rooi Els.

## OVER-USE OF RESOURCES

Disappearing abalone and dwindling fish stocks are in evidence. They all have slow growth rates and take several years before they can reproduce themselves.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

Stick to your quotas and size limits and help others to do the same. Help spread the word on why we should conserve. Please report poaching (abalone, fish, lobster, plants) to SEAWATCH at 082 994 9300.

## INVASIVE ALIENS

Rooikrans, Port Jackson, Myrtle, Manatoka, New Zealand Christmas trees and Kikuyu grass have few natural enemies here and take over where planted. Where there has been disturbance they gain a foothold.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

Visit our eco centre to see which invasive grasses are a threat. Remove aliens from your area and on the road verges around you, including the alien grasses. Join the Rooi Els hack group.

## POLLUTION

This includes air pollution and pollution of the sea or the land. Plastic pollution in the sea kills sea turtles and certain fish swallow bits of plastic, mistaking it for jellyfish.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

Reduce, re-use and recycle. Use household products that have no phosphates, or other harmful effects on the environment. Use unleaded fuel, if possible.

## ISLANDISATION

Protecting nature in small reserves is ineffective on the long run. Gene pools are too small, species decline and eventually become extinct. The "stepping stones" idea is to link adjacent areas to reserves.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

Help keep as much of the road verges as possible in a natural state. These form corridors between our nature reserve areas. Also keeping as much natural fynbos on your property as possible helps to curb islandisation.

Unique to a biosphere is that small-holdings and towns are included in the reserve. The idea is to get the people living there enthusiastic about conservation. By living mindful of this in the transitional and buffer zones of the reserve, and using resources in a sustainable way, we can help to keep the core of the reserve pristine, thus conserving nature and biodiversity. Conservation is a mindset and a way of life. What we do every day affects our unique biodiversity and the abundance of the earth.

EVETTE WEYERS

References: STATE OF THE PLANET a documentary by David Attenborough  
Biodiversity - talk by Estelle Raymond at KOBIO

# BIRD CHAT

September 21st is the Spring equinox - a time when day and night are of equal length and in the Southern Hemisphere also heralds the official start of Spring, whilst in the Northern the start of Autumn. So like swallows we have chased the sun homewards to Rooi Els from an increasingly cooling Britain, and as we left on a larger 'metal bird', the swallows and other European migrants were beginning to pack their bags too and congregated on the telegraph wires for their long flights.



Spring is Nature rebirth time - look out for birds with nesting material in their beaks, listen for the monotonous song of Klaas's cuckoo (*Meitjie*). The Lockleys were amongst the first to report its presence. The striking emerald backed male and the less obvious female are regulars in Rooi Els, quite possibly residents, and are easily overlooked when not calling, usually only in the breeding season. The pair have a good choice of hosts to raise their offspring in the fynbos including Bar-throated Apalis, Cape Batis, Long-billed Crombec, Dusky Flycatcher, Malachite, and Collared Sunbirds, the latter example we witnessed feeding a juvenile cuckoo in our own garden a couple of years ago. Cuckoos are not the most pleasant of species in the bird world and are found world wide. Whilst in Britain this winter we were privileged to watch a fully fledged European Cuckoo being fed by a pair of reed warblers.

Estelle and Frank Raymond were also extra eyes for us when they reported an African Olive-Pigeon in their garden. This is the largest pigeon in the region and is indeed a striking bird with its yellow legs, beak and eye ring, with a white speckled chest. It is also a new bird for our Rooi Els list, though it has been common at Harold Porter Botanical Gardens in Betty's Bay. In Roberts VI it was called a Rameron Pigeon (*Geelbekbosduif*). This is precisely why we ask you all to report any bird you're not able to identify, as it may be a 'first'.

Happy Birding - we all look forward to those "lazy, hazy days of summer".

ALISON AYRE

## ON OUR DOORSTEP...

We have a lot of fun hand feeding birds with meal worms which we breed in a bucket of bran. The birds that take the worms out of our hands are the Cape Rock Thrush (Kaapse kliplyster), the Fiscal Flycatcher (Fiskaalvlievanger) and of course the Familiar Chat (Gewone spekvreter).

Other regular visitors to our feeding trays include the Cape Francolin, the Cape Bulbul, Cape Robin, Yellow rumped widow, Cape Wagtails, Redwinged starlings, Cape White eyes, Rock Pigeon (now called the Speckled pigeon!), the occasional Cape Turtle dove, Cape weavers, Cape sparrow and the ever present Cape buntings.

All three species of sunbird frequent our birdbath as do the sugarbirds and the Karoo Prinia. Infrequent visitors are the Southern Boubou, the Bokmakiere, Fiscal shrike, Cape Batis, Grassbird and the Barthroated apalis. Klaas's Cuckoo visited us in mid- August and we heard him calling all day and eventually saw him on top of the large rooikrans in the Davis' garden. The birds at Rooi Els are a great source of pleasure to us both.

DICK AND JILL LOCKLEY



SHARING A MOMENT OF TRUST  
JILL AND A ROCK THRUSH



JUST DROPPING IN: A FRANCOLIN  
MAKING A HOUSE CALL



# O, DIE DASSIE IS 'N WONDERLIKE DING!

My verhouding met dassies het begin toe ek 9-jaar oud was. Op my ouma en oupa se plaas naby Clarens, het die werkers dassies vir die pot gejag. Aan die einde van 'n vakansie op die plaas gee hulle vir my twee piep-klein dassies as afskeidsgeskenk. Die dassies is saam Pretoria toe - ten spyte van ma en pa se protes. In die weke wat volg maak ek my dassies groot op melk en brood en verloor my hart vir ewig aan hierdie slim en sindelike diertjies. Ek kry nie genoeg gekyk en gevat aan hulle fyn sagte rubber voetsole nie. Dassies se voete is 'n ware ingenieurs-prestasie wat hul in staat stel om teen die steilste hellings uit te klim deur spesiale spiere waarmee hul 'n vakuum onder hulle klam voetsole kan skep.

Die dassies het goed aangepas en vry rondgehoop in ons voorstedelike tuin. Hulle het gekom as hulle geroep word en saamgesels in hoë piep-geluide. As ons tee gedrink het, was hulle dadelik by vir 'n piering melk. En as jy nie betyds keer nie, klim hulle sommer binne-in die melkbeker!

Met hulle wonder-voete was niks in ons huis buite dassie-bereik nie. Op daardie stadium het die verhouding tussen my ma en my dassies begin versleg. Mens kan dalk sê dat dit was as gevolg van 'n gedeelde belangstelling... in blommerangskikking. My ma was lid van die Pretoriase Blommeklub en die dassies het haar kleurvolle skeppings fyn dopgehou. Hulle het 'n voorliefde vir gesnyde blomme begin ontwikkel. Sodra my ma haar rug draai, takel die dassies haar blommerangskikkings sodat net die kaal stingels oorbly. Die dassies is onder protes die huis verban. Elke venster en deur moes van toe af dig toe gehou word.

Dassies se metabolisme is stadig en hulle kry gou koud. Eintlik is hulle lewende fossiele - pre-historiese diere wat nie heeltemal in staat is om hulle liggaamstemperatuur te beheer nie. (By die Karoo Nasionale Park is daar 'n fossiel van 'n tipe oer-dassie wat uit die tydperk voor dinasorusse dateer!) Ek onthou hoe my dassies een wintermiddag ongesiens agter die warmte aan, in die motor se enjin ingeklouter het. My ma't my by my klavierles afgelaai... en daar spring twee dassies uit die enjin! Ek, ma en klavierjuffrou is die res van die middag holderstebolder agter die dassies aan deur verskeie voorstedelike tuine. My klavierles was vergete en ek verheug. (En die dassies het 'n eksta piering melk van my gekry.)

Dis heerlik om op Rooiels weer die dassies van my kinderjare te herontdek met die familie dassies wat in die rotse skuins agter ons huis woon. Soos goeie bure betaam, handhaaf ons 'n respekvolle afstand van mekaar. Ons hou mekaar fyn dop met nuuskierigheid en soms met verwondering. En partykeer help die dassies se oë en alarm-roep ons om dinge raak te sien wat ons normaalweg sou mis... soos 'n luiperd-silhoeët afge-ets teen die skemer, die afduik van die witkruisarende of die wonder van 'n roikat voor ons venster twee weke gelede!

ESTELLE RAYMOND



Photo: Mike Lereche

"AN ODD MAMMAL, THE DASSIE, HAS A DIGESTIVE SYSTEM LIKE A BIRD, TEETH LIKE A RHINOCEROS AND ITS CLOSEST RELATIVES ARE THE DUGONG AND THE ELEPHANT!"

LIZ MCMAHON & M FRASER, A FYNBOS YEAR

## THE IMPORTANCE OF DASSIES IN THE FOOD CHAIN

Dassies provide over ninety percent of the Black Eagle's diet. As their populations dwindle so too do the Black Eagles disappear. Dassies form the staple diet of the Black Eagle and Cape Leopard (despite popular myth that Baboons are the staple diet of the Leopard). Black Eagles usually attack out of the sun, making a hidden approach at great speed. To counter this, Dassies are equipped with an extra "eye-lid" or sun-shield in their eyes which allows them to look directly into the sun so that they can detect attacking eagles. Dassies also live in groups. Alarm calls by older female guards (sentinels) ensure an early warning system. To avoid predation by Black Eagles, Dassies rarely move far from their rocky homes. This is especially so on windy days, when Black Eagles are more active.

# WHY DO SCIENTISTS SAY THAT DASSIES ARE RELATED TO ELEPHANTS?

## AN ANATOMY LESSON

- Dassies and elephants have similar foot structures. They have toes with rounded nails, four on the fore paws and three on the rear.
- Dassies have two small tusks in the upper jaw - like in the elephant. Neither dassies nor elephants have canines, but both species have large molars for chewing.
- The testes of dassies and elephants do not descend to the scrotum.
- Neither dassies nor elephants have gall bladders.
- Their livers have two lobes. This is indicative of the low protein diet both species follow.
- Both dassies and elephants have long gestation periods. For elephants this is 22 months and for dassies 8 months. This is very long for such small animals as dassies when compared with the 9 months of our human species!



BEHAVIOUR CHANGES IN SPECIES CAN OCCUR QUICKLY, BUT ANATOMIC CHANGE IS MUCH SLOWER, SO THAT THE RELICS OF THE COMMON ORIGINS OF BOTH THE DASSIE AND ELEPHANT ARE STILL EVIDENT SOME 50 MILLION YEARS LATER.

## BLACK EAGLE FACTS AND STORIES

### Wing Span > 2m

Their preferred hunting altitude is 600m and they cover about 95km per day. The average flight speed of a Black Eagle is about 50km/h. They can hang motionless for up to 20 minutes and when diving can reach speeds of up to 200km/h. As the Black Eagle soars above, it is easily recognisable by the light coloured patches under its wings towards the outer ends. Black Eagles' wings are broad, but pinched in at the body. They are uniformly black with a distinct 'V' on the back.

To see an eagle close by is an awesome sight: just to see its regal and powerful bearing is a humbling thrill. It is not wonder that, from time immemorial, humans have regarded eagles as symbols of strength, courage and freedom as they soar high above us. Many businesses use the eagle as a corporate symbol. The flags and emblems of many nations, going back to Roman times, have used these magnificent birds to portray strength and courage. There are several references to eagles in the Bible, and the people of Israel were reminded that they had been borne from Egyptian captivity on the wings of eagles (Exodus 19:4).

Credo Mutwa, the celebrated Zulu spiritual leader, tells us that his people look upon the eagle with great reverence and it is seen as a protector and purifier of the wilderness. It is regarded as the messenger of the god of light. In former times, only people of royal blood were allowed to wear the feathers of eagles on their person, but they had to obtain such feathers from living birds - eagles were not to be killed. Zulu people associate the eagle with God and symbolically refer to God as an eagle with twelve or more wings, so as to fly in any direction. If you dream of an eagle, it is believed to mean that you will enjoy the protection of God.

# BABOONS AND HABITUATION



MANY HAVE ACCUSED PRINGLE BAY'S, KATE JAEGO-DAVIES, OF FEEDING BABOONS, BUT FROM THE GENTLE, NON-COMPETITIVE ATTITUDE OF THE TROOP, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT NO FOOD IS INVOLVED. THE HOUSE IS SECURELY CLOSED WHEN THE BABOONS COME TO SOCIALISE WITH KAY IN HER WHEELCHAIR.

(PHOTOS BY BRYAN DAVIES, EMERITUS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ZOOLOGY)

Several people have queried the wisdom of the CIVI's research students getting so close to the baboons they are studying. "Aren't the baboons learning not to be afraid of humans and therefore more likely to enter our houses?" is the gist of their concern. One person cited seeing a baboon and researcher sitting side by side on the Rooi Els koppie.



My perception is that baboons are not naturally afraid of humans and would happily walk amongst us as they would walk amongst Impala, Zebra or other non-predatory animals. They are certainly afraid of Leopard, and where they have had bad experiences they have learnt to be afraid of humans and their weaponry. (I lived in a game reserve in Botswana for several years and knew those very un-habituated baboons to be unconcerned about humans. Like Lions, they only run away if they perceived the human... or gun... constituted a threat.)

But I'm no authority, so after Jenni Trethowan's talk at Betty's Bay in August, I asked her opinion of the baboons becoming habituated by the researchers. (Jenni has been involved with baboon/human interactions for 16 years and run baboon monitoring teams for the last 9 years. Jenni's response was enlightening: she believes that baboons that choose to sit alongside a researcher are displaying normal inquisitive and friendly behaviour. People who feed baboons, (even by accident when baboons have accessed food in their houses), are teaching baboons to associate humans with food! But because

researchers know better than to feed them, they are teaching baboons that people do not necessarily mean food. So researchers are actually reducing the risk of us having things snatched from us!

CHRIS BURLOCK



# SEA VEGETABLES

## A WEALTH OF HEALTH ALONG OUR SHORES

Disconsolate, I found that the changing sandbars on the beach have made it even harder to access the good mussels in winter without getting thoroughly soaked. What to do? I get such intense satisfaction from harvesting my own food. Its one of the real pleasures of living in Rooi Els. I had seen the series of articles in Village Life by Louie Lemmer and had heard how Evette Weyers and Anuta Scholtz make seaweed jelly and with the longterm loan of an old book on sea vegetable cooking from Bruce Relly I was on my way to a whole new world.

Seaweeds are a renewable resource that you have all been eating for years - their extracts are used extensively in health products and people pay a fortune for pills. The algin, carrageenan and agar are used as natural thickeners and stablizers for ice cream, bread, cheeses and a host of things you eat every day. Why then do so few of us even think of going to the original source? Lack of information and our conservative natures and of course the convenience of pre-packaged foods! However, as more bought food is now contaminated with artificial additives, the expense and inconvenience of buying organic foods and with the easy availability of seaweed to Rooielsers, using the rich abundance of our sea is increasingly attractive. Seaweeds absorb nutrients from the sea around them assimilating inorganic substances and converting them into organic combines we can use. No pesticides, no fertilizers, nor growth-hormones, no carcinogens just health from the sea.



In Iceland seaweed has been eaten since 960 B.C. and the oldest law book refers to special rights and concessions being required to collect it from a neighbour's land. Chinese poetry from 800 B.C. extols the delicacy of sea vegetables. In Hawaii the nobility kept seaweed gardens, transplanting rare and choice varieties to a protected location near their beach home and weeding out the less desirable species. Seaweed still forms an important part of the diet in most Eastern cultures and in Russia on the Kamchatka Peninsula *Palmaria palmate* is fermented and used as an alcoholic drink. It is also used in Scotland, Ireland and Wales in variations of the basic recipe: boil it until a mush is formed, drain the water and then roll it in oats and fry it in a little oil. Use the drained water in soups, or give it to your dogs as it is also rich in nutrients.

*Porphyria* is the limp blackish brown weed hanging from all the rocks along the beach at low tide. The best ones for eating are those you find hanging from the undersides of boulders with their tips still in the water. Those openly on the rocks are also fine but a little tougher. Avoid gathering seaweed in the sand to reduce problems cleaning! Seaweed should be lightly rinsed in lukewarm water to remove sand. If you soak it or use hot water, you may leach out the nutrients and cold water doesn't easily wash the sand off. *Pophyria* generally is high in protein, vitamins A,B,C and D, iodine, calcium and trace elements. Some sources also indicate that it is rich in potassium, magnesium, zinc, soluble nitrogen and various other minerals. I could not find information on the properties of *Porphyra capensis* which is the species found here. Plate 153.1 in the book "Two Oceans" by Branch, Griffiths, Branch and Beckley gives a good photograph. I normally add a little lemon when boiling it to help break it down, but sometimes it cooks fine without.

It appears that you can experiment with almost all the seaweeds that you find. According to Madlener, there is no verified case of lethal poisoning by seaweed. Louis Lemmer (Village Life No.18), who has been experimenting for years indicates that we should avoid any seaweed which is finer than human hair and records only two out of the hundreds of varieties we have access to that could be poisonous.

A favorite for us newcomers to sea vegetable foraging, is the sea lettuce (*Ulva spp.* Plate 146.1) which is not easily available in winter but, in summer, its luminous bright green will attract you to all the rock pools between the slipway and the beach. You should chop this very finely and add it to any salad, or use as a garnish. It adds to the colour and health of any dish.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF...

CONTINUED:  
A FEAST OF SEAWEED ON OUR DOORSTEP

Most of the seaweeds we have are rather tough - or else I have not found the right places to harvest! This means that for the most part you have to chop very finely, or cook them with a little lemon or vinegar to break them down. It is best to boil them and then drain and keep the liquid for gel to thicken soups, use in aspics or in deserts. You need to use double to three times the water to seaweed (measured in cups) and then boil until mush and drain. Give the mush to the dogs if not too sour as some will need lemon or vinegar to break them down and others will be fine without. I tend to try small bits in different ways in my microwave first. Gels are particularly effective using the red ribbon-like seaweeds and especially *Suhria vittata* (Plate 160.2) red ribbons found on washed up kelp plants which they use as a foothold. I keep some gel in the freezer to add to soups.

With other seaweeds, you boil them, drain and use the mush in pasta dishes. A good example is *Aeodes orbitosa* which is easily found on the rocks between the slipway and the beach or on the other side of the beach. The mush is particularly good added to tomato sauces, minced beef dishes, in hamburger patties and in stews and often you can use the drained water in soups and stews. You have to taste to see if you should keep the water or give it to the dog bowl or to the drain! Often this may also depend on whether you have overdone the vinegar or lemon!

The other thing I have found is that if I can get really young kelp (*Ecklonia maxima* Plate 150.2) chop the stem into pieces and boil it, it is a really good addition to stews, or can be prepared as a snack and is good pickled in vinegar. It must be a young plant, before the stem is hollow. Another easily found and very tasty seaweed is hairy tongue (*Gigartina polycarpa* (formerly *radula*), Plate 155.3. Put into boiling water for about 5-10 minutes - don't let it go to mush, and then remove, pat dry and dip in tempura batter with some garlic and spices and fry. *Codium* (Plate 148.2) is very tasty just cut up fine and use raw as a condiment or in egg dishes, rice etc.

Foraging along the shore, knowing that you are living off the land, being healthy and saving money are some of the pleasures you will get from your adventures with sea algae. For a wealth of recipes and much more information and beautiful illustrations, readers are referred to Louie Lemmer's series on edible seaweeds in *Village Life* (for back copies contact [subs@villagelife.co.za](mailto:subs@villagelife.co.za)).

KAY LERECHÉ

Sources:

Branch, G., C.Griffiths, M.Branch and L. Beckley, *Two Oceans* David Philip publishers, Cape Town 2005  
Branch, Margo and George Branch *The Living Shores of Southern Africa* C. Struik Publishers, Cape Town 1981  
Louie Lemmer articles in *Village Life* No 8 and Nos 10-19 (Feb/March 2005-August/September 2006)  
Madlener, Judith Cooper *The Seavegetable Book* Clarkson N. Potter Publishers, New York 1977

WEES BEDAGSAAM  
PLEASE BE A CONSIDERATE  
DOG OWNER...



HIERDIE HOUER MET BIO-AFBREEKBARE  
SAKKIES IS VERKRYGBAAR VAN DIE 'VET-SHOP'  
TEEN ONGEVEER R46 EN KAN AAN ENIGE  
LEIBAND GEHEG WORD.

BIODEGRADABLE DOGGIE CLEAN-UP BAGS  
THAT ATTACH TO ANY LEASH ARE AVAILABLE  
FROM THE VET SHOP AT AROUND R46.



# THE RIGHTS (AND WRONGS) OF PETS IN THE BIOSPHERE!

The Rooi Els Conservancy received a letter from a Rooi Elser raising concerns about pets in the village. It highlighted the need for a Breeze article on the 'rules and regs' for domesticated animals within a Biosphere, a Conservancy and our village.

The legal issues are complex. As Chairperson of Kleinmond Animal Welfare Society, I was horrified to discover that each of the Overstrand villages was governed by different by-laws, some dating back to 1960! I have been campaigning for the Overstrand animal control by-laws to be brought into line with those developed by the SPCA and the City of Johannesburg, and am pleased to report that a draft has been produced and is going through the comment process.



Over and above the normal requirements, the draft by-law has two welcome conditions. It limits the number of dogs and cats per property, (we are canvassing for a maximum of 2 dogs and 2 cats over 6 months of age). And, more importantly, it states that every female dog and cat over 6 months of age must be sterilized, unless registered with a recognised breeding union. (As a welfare organization, we would prefer both male and female to be sterilized as fighting between males will increase as breeding females get scarcer.) Please note: anyone with more than two dogs or cats will not have to destroy the 'extras'...but once the pets pass on, they may not be replaced. There will be a 12 month period to have female pets sterilized. Exceptions can be granted by the Municipality.

The aim of the by-law is to limit the number of animals...something animal welfare societies welcome as we see the harrowing results of unlimited breeding every single day! A control on numbers will also benefit the environment. Although predators have been hunting birds, buck, rodents, dassies and hares here for thousands of years, our presence has displaced those natural predators: leopards, jackals, foxes, African wildcats, caracals and snakes. In fact, if it were not for the introduction of domestic cats, the rodent population could have gotten out of hand and resulted in an increase in the number of snakes. But it is precisely because our increasingly scarce wildlife is under an increasing threat from habitat loss, motor vehicles, etc. that we need to take all possible steps to prevent dogs and cats from hunting. Cats that hunt birds should wear special cat collars (with an elastic insert) and a bell. Dogs that hunt must not be allowed off the property and only walked if on a leash. CapeNature will shoot dogs known to be destroying wildlife... (Perhaps threatening to shoot the owners would be a more effective deterrent?)

The new by-law requires that owners keep their dogs on their properties, keep them on leads and under control when in public places, and dispose of their droppings. But in reality, can these requirements be enforced by an already stretched Law Enforcement division? We really hope that 'common sense' will replace the need for Law Enforcement within our Conservancy villages. Here are some 'common sense' guidelines:

- Property owners should avoid bringing hunting breeds of dogs into the area unless they can be kept behind a secure fence.
- Fences should ideally not enclose an entire erf but stop a couple of metres from the perimeter to allow wildlife to wander between village properties.
- All doggie poo deposited on roads, paths, beaches (or where ever people might sit or walk) must be removed, but when a dog moves into the bushes to defecate, perhaps that could be left for the dung-beetles to enjoy?
- Our village has traditionally turned a blind eye to owners taking well-behaved, unleashed dogs onto beaches at quiet times, but are asking that all dogs be kept on leashes during the Oystercatcher breeding season (mid Nov - mid March), which are also the busiest holiday periods.

Should animal owners ignore these common sense 'rules', then they will not only invite prosecution under the new by-law, but they will ruin the enjoyment of those animal owners who are respectful of the environment.

CHRIS BURLOCK



# MOONSTRUCK!

## OUR BEAUTIFUL MOON



"THE MOON LIKE A FLOWER,  
IN HEAVEN'S HIGH BOWER,  
WITH SILENT DELIGHT  
SITS AND SMILES ON THE NIGHT"

WILLIAM BLAKE

In the beginning ... there was the moon. Ever-present and continually changing. Earth's constant companion on the course of its journey through space, dancing in circles around us. Loyal moon: never leaving our side except for those three disconcerting days when it goes about its secret, invisible way, keeping us in the dark.

The moon has always provided humankind with a mysterious and fascinating nocturnal sky show, endlessly interesting to speculate about. From the very earliest time, people have watched and wondered. What is it made of? How was it formed? Why does it behave as it does? What does it look like up close? Who lives there?

The moon as mother is a prevalent mythological theme. Ix Chel, the Mayan Moon Goddess, was the first woman of the world and the mother of all deities. She is the giver of the life-enhancing waters, and the protector of women in childbirth. Many ancient cultures knew the moon as mother, Queen of Heaven, sky goddess, the Divine Midwife. In Central Africa, women bathe their newborns by the light of the first full moon following birth. The Virgin Mary is frequently displayed standing upon a crescent moon.

IF THE MOON WAS SEEN AS THE PRODUCER AND PROVIDER OF LIFE, SHE WAS ALSO WIDELY PERCEIVED TO BE THE GUIDE AND GUARDIAN OF DEATH. LIFE AND DEATH ARE LIKE THE OPPOSITE PHASES OF THE MOON, LIGHT AND DARK.

The great mystery of the moon is its cycle of change, its periodic transformation of size, shape, location. It appears and grows steadily in the dark sky, its light illuminating the night. Then it dims and grows dark, darker, darkest. The moon is almost always associated with women and is widely considered to be in their special domain. This is due, no doubt, to the clear co-incidence of the periodic cycle of the moon and the monthly hormonal cycle of women. Undeniably, they are all but identical.

The return of the first sterling crescent as it rises above the eastern horizon signals the coming to life, the resurrection of the moon, and as such is a time of great optimism and hope. The rising of the new waxing moon inaugurates a new cycle. It sets the pace, the tone, for the new month ahead. The crescent moon symbolises the courage, creativity and determination to begin once again from the beginning. *Crescere* means 'to grow'. Diana was the goddess of the crescent moon to the Romans and Druids. In her honour, women of Gaul baked crescent-shaped communion cakes to greet the rising of the new moon - the same French croissants we enjoy today. The Bushmen beseech the new moon for rain, game for the hunters and an abundance of fruit for gathering, none of which is possible without the moon's protection. When the moon is new and waxing, it lends energy to beginnings, growth and increase, especially in plants that produce food or flowers above the ground.

When the moon is full, the seas rise up to reach it, sending wild waves of enthusiastic welcome. Oysters spread their shells wide, wolves howl at it - the sight of that shimmering ball set in the vast sky and the lunar-lit atmosphere it creates, has always held a universally mesmerising, magnetic, mysterious, magical appeal. The full moon is considered to be the climactic time of the month. The period of fulfillment, the blossoming of the expectation, the promise of the new beginning moon fulfilled. The Christian Easter is always on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring Equinox, and the Jewish Passover, the full moon closest to it. In Greece, women used to present the moon goddess Artemis with a lighted full moon cake in honour of her monthly birthday - our original birthday cakes. This is a time to harvest grapes for wine, pick mushrooms, plant trees, pick herbs for medicinal use, add fertiliser.

CONTINUED  
OUR BEAUTIFUL MOON!

After the hope and expectancy experienced at the new and first crescent moon, the growth and development of the waxing stage and the climactic charge of the full moon, the waning moon can seem sad, eliciting feelings of longing and loss - a reminder of the passage of time, of youth. But waning is not a negative, downward descent. There is a critical valuable place in the cycle for the waning process. Waning is less a matter of fading, than of distillation. Of ingathering. Of seasoning. The shriveled crescent of the old moon is like the intensified sweetness of a once succulent fruit that has been slowly dried in the sun. People everywhere who hunt, gather, grow, herd, fish or forage for their food understand that something has to die for something else to live. Death feeds life. And so the cycles continue. This is a time to plant plants that produce below the ground, root crops and bulbs, a period to weed, prune, harvest.



YOU MOON! HAVE YOU DONE  
SOMETHING WRONG IN HEAVEN  
THAT GOD HAS HIDDEN YOUR FACE?

JEAN INGELOW

If the presence of the moon stimulates our senses and activates our spirits, its absence creates a feeling of foreboding, of sadness. Cultures everywhere regard the phase when the moon is out of sight as a precarious period during which we must exercise extreme care in all undertakings. But the moon never retreats for long. She is always, inevitably, drawn back to Earth by its inexorable pull. And so is the moon, eternal in her rebirths and resurrections, a certainty that humanity has grown to trust. Within the darkness of her disappearance and death, germinates the seed of her return. The dark moon is thus the alpha as well as the omega, the beginning anew which is born of the death of the old. When the moon is dark, it is time to dig in, to mulch, to germinate.

FROM THE FIRST OF TIME,  
BEFORE THE FIRST OF TIME, BEFORE THE  
FIRST MEN TASTED TIME, WE THOUGHT OF YOU.  
YOU WERE A WONDER TO US, UNATTAINABLE,  
A LONGING PAST THE REACH OF LONGING,  
A LIGHT BEYOND OUR LIGHT.

MARY COMRIE

## DIE NATUUR DIE KUNS AF VRA

Die mens probeer steeds by die natuur oplossings soek vir probleme. Maar die delikate balans en geheime van die natuur ontsluit nie so maklik nie. Dink maar hoe kompleks die masjiene in hospitale is wat 'n nier se funksies moet oorneem.

Die see het ook wonderbaarlike oplossings wat wetenskaplikes nader lok. Hulle wil weet hoe 'n mossel hom so goed kan vassmessel aan die rotse dat hy die kwaaieste storms kan oorleef. Dit sal handig wees in kleefmiddels ontwikkel en konstruksiewerk. Ook 'n eenvoudige wese soos 'n spons het 'n effektiewe en wonderbaarlike wyse om antibioka te skep teen batterië. Wetenskaplikes probeer steeds om hierdie geheime te ontsluit en aan te pas. (Die Spons is lank as plant gesien het maar later as dier geklasifiseer)

Ek kyk nou met nuwe respek na 'n eenvoudige spons wat op die rotse onder die see groei. Die swygsame sponse bewaar egter steeds hul geheimenis.

EVETTE WEYERS

# OH, HOW OUR BABY HAS GROWN!

DIARMUID AND JENNY BAIGRIE RECENTLY UNEARTHED THIS PRESS CUTTING OF THE FIRST BABY BORN IN ROOI ELS ON 27 MAY 1981. SHE IS NONE OTHER THAN BUDDING YOUNG ARTIST TAM SIN RELLY (DAUGHTER OF BRUCE).



TAM SIN WITH MOTHER ANNEMARIE RELLY AND MIDWIFE MAVIS SLINGER

BELOW IS AN EXTRACT FROM THE SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE WRITTEN BY BENNIE VAN DELFT AT THE TIME:

"A baby girl has become the toast of a tiny seaside village. The pint sized celebrity, youngest addition to the Relly family, is the first birth recorded in Rooi Els, a 13- family hamlet on the Cape's southwest coast. For the local residents, mostly retired people, it is the biggest event in the history of the village. The birth has increased the population overnight by more than three percent, from 29 to 30.

When the townsfolk heard that the birth would be a "home affair", several enthusiastic residents came forward to offer help as midwife. But the mother thought it wise to get the services of an experienced midwife. Although assured by doctors that the birth would be normal and that there were no alarming signs, geologist Bruce decided to take no chances. He read various books on births just in case he had to play the role of midwife.

"I'm absolutely thrilled", said a tearful, Mr Dick Gresty, who at 84 is the oldest resident of Rooi Els. Congratulating Annemarie on her "noble efforts", Mr Gresty expressed the hope that there would be a rash of babies soon. "It might encourage other young couples to settle here and have babies because it has now been proved that Rooi Els is not all that primitive."

The parents have not decided on the baby's name, but are thinking of making it a typical Rooi Els name. Among the possible names are Gail, Wendy, Breezy, Elske, Shelly and Sandy. "But if anyone can come with a good original name, I'd like to hear from them," Bruce said.

For the only shopkeeper in the village, Mrs Issie Rijke, the birth of the first baby in the village might well mean that she would soon have to stockpile baby products. "I don't expect to become rich overnight with a new baby in our midst, but at least it means one more customer."

Mrs Thelma Vogel, only other mother in the village with children of school-going age, said she felt very proud of Annemarie's achievement. "Rooi Els is stone dead. With the exception of the fire we had seven years ago, the birth of the baby is the greatest single event in its history. Mrs Vogel said the birth had broken the monotony of the village life, because "at least now we have something to talk about." Mr Gresty agreed that Rooi Els was a dull place.

When Mr Gresty held the tiny bundle in his arms, he was overcome with emotion. "It such a beautiful baby - its making me cry" he said as tears unashamedly rolled down his cheeks.

Mr Abraham Erasmus a senior administrative official with the Caledon Divisional Council since 1940, confirmed that the Relly baby was the first born at Rooi Els, which was proclaimed a village just before the Second World War."



TAM SIN TODAY

TAM SIN RELLY IS A VISUAL ARTIST BASED IN CAPE TOWN. SHE WORKS IN A VARIETY OF MEDIUMS: FOCUSING ON OIL PAINTING, PHOTOGRAPHY AND DRAWING. HER FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION IN 1999 WAS SOLD OUT ON OPENING NIGHT, RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE MEDIA ATTENTION. TO VIEW HER ART VISIT: [tamsinrelly.com](http://tamsinrelly.com)



## GERARD GOES INTERNATIONAL!

Rooiels se Gerard Scholtz is deur die Hsinchu City (Taiwan) onderwys-owerhede aangestel om 'n Kersdrama in die stad op te voer. Sowat 20 skole met duisende leerlinge het die opvoerings in 'n hoofsaaklik Tao- Bhoeddhistiese samelewing bygewoon. Gerard het self die inter-aktiewe teks geskryf met chants, musiek, dialoog, impromptu improvisasies en baie geraas om die Sjiniese tevrede te hou. Die rolverdeling is deur Amerikaners, Kanadese, Suid-Afrikaners, en 'n Filippyn ge vul, asook Sjiniese onderwysers en leerlinge.

Gerard was die engel wat die Goeie Tyding gebring het. Een nag het hy en Anuta met hulle motorfiets deur die stad gejaag en sien hulle 'n prostituut met vlerke langs die pad staan. Gerard het besluit dat hy, as die engel, net sulke vlerke wil hê!

By een skool het 500 leerlinge hulle in rooi Santa kostuums ingewag, by 'n ander het die personeel hulle met marionet-drake verwelkom.

Gerard was vir baie jare 'n dramadosent en het opvoerings vir die professionele verhoog geregisseur. Hy en Marius Weyers het ook vir 'n paar jaar gedurende die kersseisoen op Rooiels hulle gewilde 'Marius en Friend'-programme in die destydse Sea Horse restaurant aangebied.



## CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

Dick Lockley is compiling the Rooi Els Christmas programme again. Any suggestions or offers of assistance?

We would love to have a slide show celebrating the beauty of Rooi Els and the Kogelberg Biosphere. How about submitting a few of your favourite photographs? We will put them together in a Power-Point presentation which we can all view together. Contact Kay at [kayml@telkomsa.net](mailto:kayml@telkomsa.net) or Estelle at [eraymond@mweb.co.za](mailto:eraymond@mweb.co.za).

## WILDERNESS

HAVE WE FORGOTTEN  
THAT WILDERNESS IS NOT A PLACE,  
BUT A PATTERN OF SOUL  
WHERE EVERY TREE, EVERY BIRD  
AND BEAST  
IS A SOUL MAKER?

HAVE WE FORGOTTEN  
THAT WILDERNESS IS NOT A PLACE  
BUT A MOVING FEAST OF STARS,  
FOOTPRINTS, SCALES AND  
BEGINNINGS?

SINCE WHEN  
DID WE BECOME AFRAID OF THE  
NIGHT  
AND THAT ONLY THE BRIGHT STARS  
COUNT?  
OR THAT OUR MOON IS NOT A  
MOON  
UNLESS IT IS FULL?

BY WHOSE COMMAND  
WERE THE ANIMALS  
THROUGH GROPING FINGERS,  
ONE FOR EACH HAND,  
REDUCED TO THE BIG AND LITTLE  
FIVE?

HAVE WE FORGOTTEN  
THAT EVERY CREATURE IS WITHIN  
US  
CARRIED BY TIDES  
OF EARTHLY BLOOD  
AND THAT WE NAMED THEM?

HAVE WE FORGOTTEN  
THAT WILDERNESS IS NOT A PLACE,  
BUT A SEASON  
AND THAT WE ARE IN ITS  
FINAL HOUR?

IAN MCCALLUM



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



BAIE DANKIE AAN DIE ROOI ELS BOOTKLUB WAT HIERDIE UITGAWE VAN DIE BRIES GEBORG HET