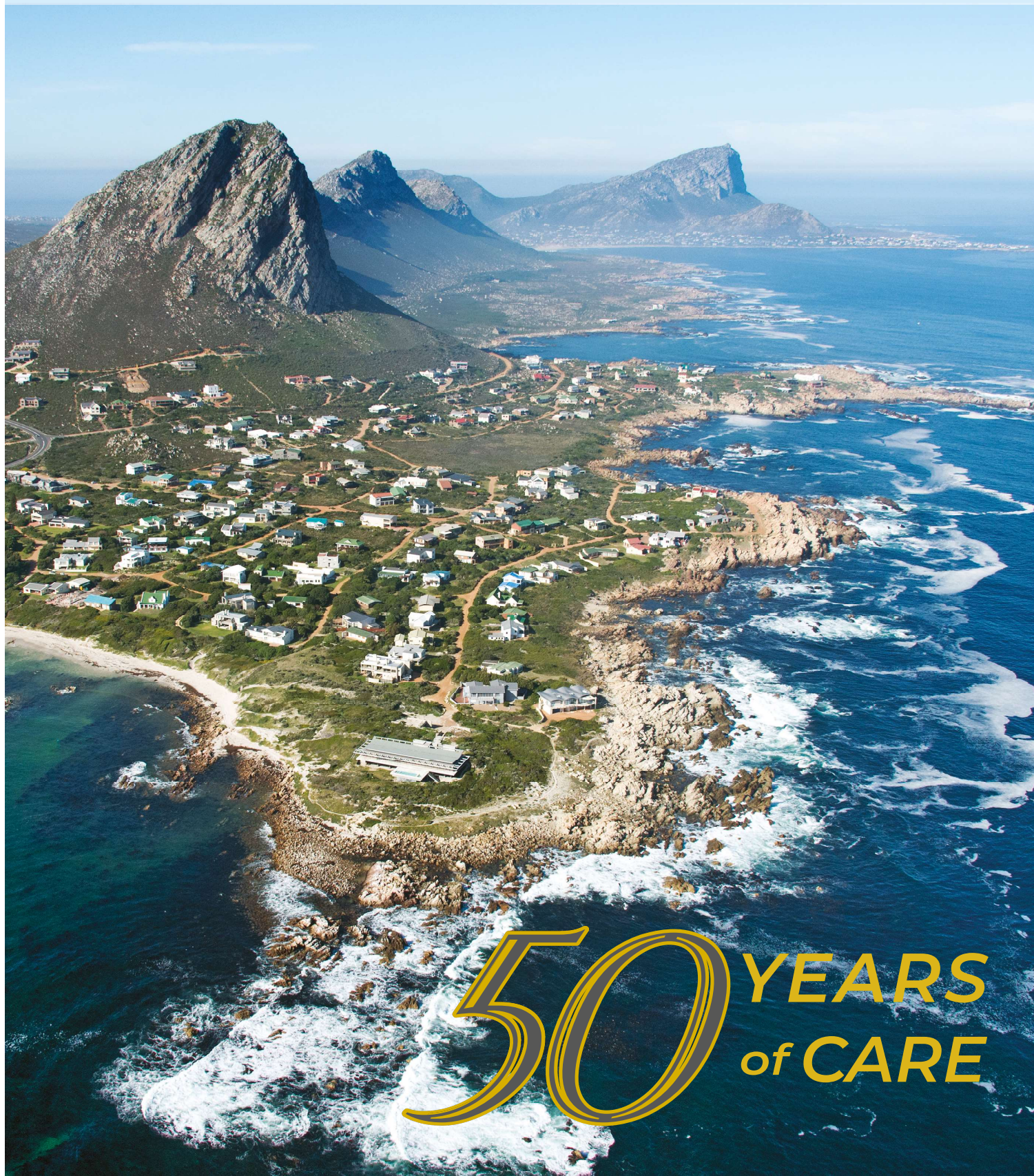


BRIES BREEZE

Rooiels 2022

Nuus van die mense, Belastingbetalersvereniging, Bewarea, Sekuriteitsassosiasie, en Bootklub
News from the people, Ratepayers' Association, Conservancy, Security Association, and Boat Club



50 YEARS
of CARE

**niks bestaan alleen
met elke tree wat ek gee
stap my skadu mee**

HAIKOE DEUR GERARD SCHOLTZ

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Breeze 2022 is dedicated to everyone who gives so unselfishly to Rooiels. A special thanks to Pierre Neethling for supporting me through this mammoth task and to Gerard Scholtz for inspiring me to take the plunge. Thank you, RERA, for this opportunity and to everyone who played a very important part in putting together this special edition.

WELKOM

Soveel om te waardeer;
soveel om na uit te sien.



WILLIE DU PLOOY

Dis mos nou heerlijk! Hier sit jy, hopelik gemaklik agteroor, met die 2022 uitgawe van Bries, 'n trotse produk deur die Rooiels gemeenskap. Ons het vir hom 'n splinternuwe baadjie aangetrek en hoop jy hou daarvan.

The 50th anniversary of RERA's existence is certainly something to be proud of. RERA and the other organizations in Rooiels have worked hard over the years to make sure that development occurs sensibly. Addressing conflicting priorities in a meaningful way is not easy, and urbanization puts great pressure on the environment, resources, and infrastructure. RERA was established with the sole objective of bringing about development without adverse impact on the environment. In this edition, we look back with appreciation at so many people who took the lead in ensuring that Rooiels is still as special today.

Bries is nou ook nie meer vandag se kind nie. Na ongeveer 40 jaar poog die Bries steeds om 'n waardige plekkie te vind op elke Rooieler se koffietafel. Ons het lekker gegrawe deur vorige uitgawes en lig graag 'n paar hoogtepunte uit. Sit jy nog? Want jy gaan lank sit. Hier's baie om in te neem.

En natuurlik, hoe kan ons dan fees vier sonder om hulde te blyk aan 'n hele rits vorige redakteurs. Dis harde werk, dit weet ek nou! Dankie julle; dat julle vergeet het om my te waarsku. Tog is ek ewig dankbaar vir diegene wat baie ure spandeer het om te help dat ons vir jou 'n waardige produk bring.

They say, "a picture is worth a thousand words". And aren't we lucky to be surrounded by living pictures? How often do we tell someone that the picture we're sharing with them just cannot do justice to what we experienced when we took it? We had great plans for a photo competition with a difference and we had an excellent sponsor in our corner. In a fortunate twist of fate, most entries were not print quality. The unfortunate news is that our sponsor also suffered because of economic hardship. I am informed that Orms Cape Town School of Photography had to close their doors at the end of November 2022 and was forced to withdraw from the competition. They did select a few shots worth mentioning, though (the one on the bottom-right of this page, is from the Rooiels book, taken around the 1930s).

Om te woon in hierdie pragtige stukkie paradys is ongelooflik. Iemand vertel my onlangs dat sy haarself nog gereeld knyp om seker

The most striking feature of this photograph is how different it appears from the contemporary landscape, with small changes in the structure of the mountain and the absence of modern built structures placing the photograph firmly in the past. It would be interesting to find the same vantage point and attempt to photograph this exact composition so that a more direct comparison can be made.

te maak dis nie als net 'n droom nie. Ander voel weer dat hul nie verdien om hier te kan bly nie. Hoe dit ook al sy, elke Rooieler het hier beland deur 'n unieke samevloeiing van gebeurtenisse en besluite.

☰ Ons is tydelik hier. ☰

Daar rus 'n groot verantwoordelijkheid op ons skouers om dit te geniet sonder om skade te berokken. Inteendeel, ons is dit aan toekomstige generasies verskuldig om die skade wat reeds aangerig is te probeer herstel.

Dare I say that you bought a property in Rooiels because of the impressions that the surroundings left on you – that you considered it a good investment. That feeling that convinced you to buy is no mere coincidence. It is thanks to strong opposition to indiscriminate development and the willingness of many people who have given their time and sometimes their own money to keep Rooiels intact.

☰ It's our turn now! ☰

Maar vir nou, sit eers terug, skop jou skoene uit, en geniet hierdie uitgawe. Ons hoor graag van jou by breeze@rooiels.org.za

Willie
↪

WYK 10 RAADSLID



TERESA ELS

Baie geluk, Rooiels, met die 50^{ste} bestaansjaar van julle Belastingbetalersvereniging. Julle, en diegene voor julle, het die afgelope vyf dekades baie bereik en bied 'n pragtige westelike ingang tot die Overstrand. Ek wens julle alle sterkte toe vir die volgende vyf dekades, en meer.

My hoofdoel om tot die styd te tree as raadslid, was om vordering te maak met herhalende kwessies wat ons gemeenskappe al geopper het oor die jare heen, en wat lyk asof dit nooit opgelos word nie. Ongelukkig is beperkte fondse, botsende prioriteite en uitdagings in die verskaffingsketting harde werklikhede. Ons doen ons bes om die feit dat die begrotingstoekenning nie noodwendig tred gehou het met die groei in die dorpe in wyk 10 nie, onder die aandag te bring.

Ek geniet my interaksie met Rooiels baie. Ten spyte daarvan dat Rooielsers hul behoeftes ferm uitspreek, is dit 'n vriendelike en hulpvaardige gemeenskap. Die eindelose kritiek en genadelose kommentaar via sosiale media van die publiek regdeur die Overstrand kan ontmoedigend wees, maar die talle positiewe interaksies vergoed daarvoor en dit word makliker om persoonlike aanvalle te ignoreer en te fokus op ons doelwitte. Ons het baie werk vorentoe en hoewel ek gewoonlik dinge vinnig gedoen wil hê, besef ek dat ek nie oornag die wêreld kan verander nie. Maar ná amper 'n jaar is ek steeds opgewonde oor die moontlikheid om 'n verskil te maak.

Dienslewering en oop kommunikasie is hoog op ons prioriteitslys. Overstrand-munisipaliteit is daartoe verbind om op hierdie aspekte te verbeter en om wyksraadslede toe te rus om oor hierdie sake in gesprek te tree. Die Collaborator-app is een so 'n voorbeeld. Hoewel dit sy groeipyne het – terloops, 'n Rooieler is in gesprek met die ontwikkelaars van die app om leemtes te identifiseer – sien ons reeds die voordele. Aangesien burgers die gewoonte het om die app te gebruik om probleme aan te meld, soos gebreke infrastruktuur of om hul tenkpompe-verseeke aan te meld, kan ons die

vraag na die operasionele spanne bepaal en kwessies baie vinniger aanspreek as wat die geval sou wees as ons dit nie gesien het nie. Raadslede ontvang 'n drukstuk van aangemelde kwessies sowel as hul vordering. Met statistieke in die hand kan ons sake dophou, help met opvolg, of versoeke bespoedig. Dit is belangrik om te onthou dat die dienste deur die operasionele spanne van die munisipaliteit of eksterne kontrakteurs gelewer word. Jou plaaslike verteenwoordigers kan bloot ingryp sodra hulle bewus word van swak dienslewering.

Afvalbestuur is krities belangrik vir ons wat so verweef saamleef met die natuur. Daarom skep die munisipaliteit bewusmaking oor toepaslike dierbestande asblikke. Almal is dit eens dat dit van uiterse belang is dat diere (wild of huishoudelik) nie toegang tot ons afval moet kry nie, daarom is dit jammer dat kennisgewings van nie-nakoming deur die ECO-monitors nie goed ontvang is nie. Hierdie kennisgewings was bedoel om oortreders kans te gee om te begroot en te voldoen aan die Overstrand Munisipaliteit se Geïntegreerde Afvalbestuur Verordening van 2021, wat bepaal dat elke huiseienaar of huurder/inwoner dierbestande houers in alle probleemdiergebiede moet gebruik en dat die munisipaliteit regstap



teen die eenaar mag instel vir nienakoming. Gaan asseblief voort om bure en besoekers in kennis te stel om altyd asblikke met 'n grendel, band, hangslot, of knip vas te maak. Geen vullissakke mag op sypaadjies, bo-op, of buite dromme in bobbejaangeaffekteerde gebiede gelaat word nie, en oortollige vullis moet na 'n oorlaaistatie geneem word.

Dit is 'n vreugde om saam met die Rooiels Belastingbetalersvereniging, die Rooiels Bewarea en die Rooiels Veiligheidsvereniging te werk om die behoeftes van die dorpenaars te bevorder. Die skielike toename in misdaad was baie ontstellend. Ons weet dat die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie diens beperkte hulpbronne het. Daarom is samewerking tussen burgers, buurtwagte, en sekuriteitsfirmas van uiterste belang. Dit is nodig dat alle verdagte gedrag en misdaad by die Polisie aangemeld word om akkurate misdaadstatistiek te verseker. Verteenwoordigers van Rooiels woon nou weer JOCOM by, wat 'n belangrike meganisme is om sake rakende veiligheid te bespreek.

Die beskerming van die natuurlike omgewing vorm die grondslag van die Rooiels Visie en die dorp is 'n uitstekende voorbeeld van hoe mense kan leef terwyl hulle na die natuurlike omgewing omsien en dit respekteer. Ek is bemoedig deur


die pogings tot duinrehabilitasie en die Rooiels Bewarea se gereelde strandskoonmaakaksies. Rooiels kan trots wees op sy talle vrywilligers, veral vir die onvermoeide uitroei van uitheemse plantegroei. Dit is slegs deur 'n standvastige visie en toegewyde mense dat 'n dorp kan floreer terwyl hulle liggies op die omgewing trap. Dit is inderdaad skaars om so 'n pragtige, ongerepte en natuurlike plek te vind om in te woon en ons wag gretig op die uitslag van u aansoek by CapeNature om die Rooiels Natuurreserveaat uit te brei.

Teen hierdie tyd pluk Rooielsers dalk die vrugte van die vervanging van watertoevoerpype en die skraap van hul grondpaaie. Die plaveisel van Anemone-pad is verleng en verdere plaveisel is op die wenslys. Ander aspekte, soos padname en inligtingstekens word aangespreek. Ek ondersteun die gemiddelde Rooieler se wens om ligbesoedeling te verminder om daardie unieke naby-aan-die-natuur gevoel te behou.

Ek waardeer die betrokkenheid by REB by mens-bobbejaan-interaksie en ons respekteer die feit dat bobbejaanbestuur anders daarna uitsien vir Rooiels. Dit is 'n sensitiewe saak om die menings vir en teen bobbejane te balanseer. In voorstede sou 'n mens jou huis teen misdaad beveilig; hier

het ons ook maatreëls nodig om ongewenste interaksies met wilde diere te vermy. Dit moet duidelik wees dat OM die mandaat ontvang het om bobbejane te bestuur, maar nooit die toepaslike begroting ontvang het om dit te doen nie. Rooiels is 'n goeie voorbeeld van hoe mense met bobbejane kan saamleef. Bobbejaaninligtingsborde is reeds in die dorp opgesit, en ek wil REC bedank vir die betaling van inligtingsbeamptes tydens vakansietye om besoekers te waarsku oor die teenwoordigheid van bobbejane.

Gepraat van besoekers; die bevordering van toerisme is vir ons belangrik. Ons wil fokus op naamborde wat eenvormig is, en ons moet ons kulturele en erfenisaspekte tentoonstel. Soos die vakansieseisoen nader kom, beplan ons vroegtydige vergaderings met die administrasie om te verseker dat openbare areas en dienste op standaard is. Laastens, maar beslis nie die minste nie, is die spoedbestuur op die R44 en die veiligheid van dorpsingange. Ons verstaan die belangrikheid daarvan en werk saam met Provinsiale Regering in hierdie verband.

Ek wens jou en jou geliefdes 'n aangename jaareinde toe en alles van die beste vir 2023. 

Robert Miller





KAY LERESCHE

The Rooiels Ratepayers' Association this year has directed its energy at helping Rooiels to retain its current state. This is not always easy! Sometimes, it is crucial to direct focus and energy to reduce turbulence and move the community into calmer waters. This has been what has underpinned the RERA efforts this year.

We have had several volunteers who have generously given their time to assist us to clear the street signs and keep overgrowth along the roads under control. This means that we do not need to call in the Overstrand Municipality who may use contractors that are less sensitive and destroy the fynbos. The untamed road reserves are essential to our fynbos for reseeded and as habitat for the animals and insects. RERA would like to see Rooiels receiving its services from the Overstrand in ways that enhance the ecosystem value our village brings to the area. It supports the Overstrand Municipality to establish policies that provide services to ratepayers while enhancing biodiversity. This is important for its' own sake and for the economy of the Overstrand.

The aerial perspective in this photograph is very effective in illustrating the position of Rooiels in the larger landscape, showing both its proximity to the ocean and how secluded it is due to the surrounding mountains. The low light occasioned by the time of day at which the photograph was made is complementary to the mountains allowing the forms and contours to be clearly rendered while the dark clouds at top right and dark water at the bottom of the frame add a sense of drama to the photograph. These combined with the slight haze in the distance also make the expanse of the space easier to interpret by the viewer.



MAKING SENSE OF THE EMPTY-ERVEN PLOT CLEARING POLICY

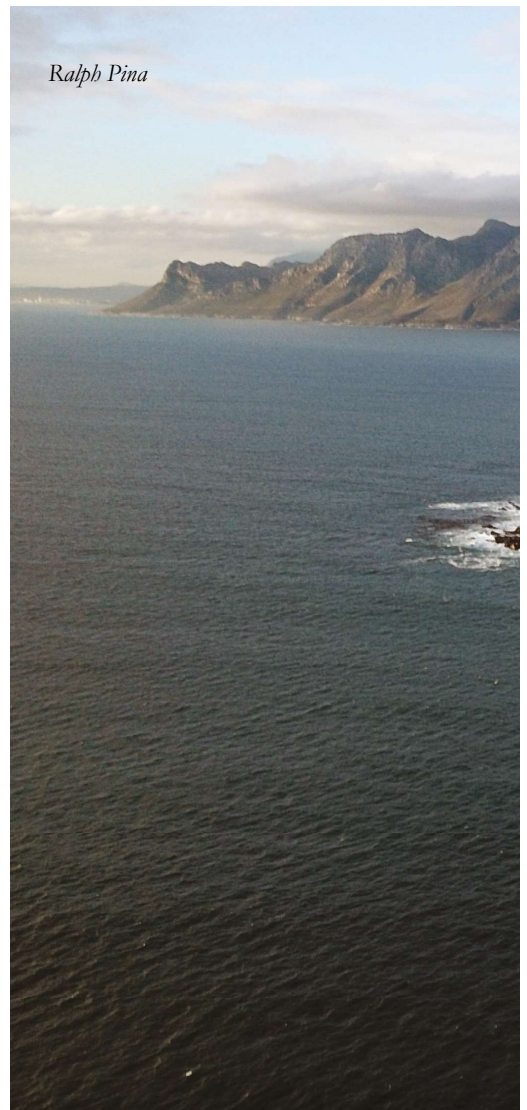
<https://rooiels.weebly.com/plot-clearing-policy-comments.html>

We have, along with our neighbouring ratepayers' associations and conservation bodies, including the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve Company, been unsuccessful in preventing the adoption of a policy that will totally destroy the area: a policy that requires all empty erven to cut down and maintain their vegetation at 50 cm. This will devastate the fynbos. The devastation to our ecosystem of removing much of the remaining Proteaceae and other fynbos is hard to contemplate. We are in the process of engaging with the legal division in the Overstrand Municipality and are hoping that they agree to remove that provision in the policy before it is implemented. If they do not make that amendment, we will be calling on all Rooielsers to assist in widely publicising the threat to the proteas, the buchu, the bietou, guarri bushes, and all the precious plants - even some of the larger ericas. It is almost beyond imagination to picture our roadsides and empty erven without any plants that grow more than 50 cm high. If necessary, we will have to take this policy to court. However, we sincerely hope that by the time this edition has been printed, that the crisis will have been averted and that sense has prevailed.

IDP AND BUDGET

The Ward Committees representing Wards 9 and 10 have been advised that they will submit a joint budget to the new plan. This past year has been much taken up with budget issues and we hope that in future the Ward Committees will have the opportunity to discuss and engage with the Municipality on other issues. You can read the submission we made for the IDP on the RERA news. And the Draft proposed budget input that has been submitted by Ward 9 and is on the Rooiels Ward Feedback on the website. Rooiels is included in the capital and maintenance budgets for roads, waterpipes and storm drains. We have asked for the Nature Reserve extension to be included and at the meeting

Ralph Pina



on 25 October we are requesting budget for OM for support for education materials and processes for new ratepayers and also to support Rooiels initiative using eco information officers to engage with visitors in the CBD in the school holidays.

BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

RERA have worked closely with Pringle Bay Ratepayers association in responding to those developments that, while falling under Pringle Bay, will affect the broader area. RERA has always had the role of responding to advertised applications for changes to building lines and other title deed restrictions. In principle, the RERA stand has always been against approving deviations from the Title Deeds. It is very difficult to justify

turning down some applications and approving others. A very strong case is needed for exceptions to be considered. Rooiels has seen an influx of building this year. More than a dozen new houses or major renovations have been carried out this year. This has put pressure on resources and time. As soon as any infringements against title deeds or building regulations are noticed, or brought to our attention, we approach the individual or their builder. Most instances this year have been resolved. If it is not resolved this is then brought to the attention of the authorities. RERA does not enforce the law; it just draws attention to the authorities when there are breaches that are not resolved. The owner is normally given time by OM to address this and if they do not, the matter is

then taken to court and fines are put in place. The unusual extension on top of Erf 84 is one example of action taken this year in response to members' requests and is presently in court.

WARD FEEDBACK MEETING AND PLANNING

At a meeting to provide Ward Feedback to Rooielsers in July, REC presented the proposal to extend full nature reserve protection to all the areas currently zoned for nature but not formally protected. Cape Nature has supported the application and once the process is started, formal public participation will be triggered. RERA presented the final draft of the Rooiels Conservancy Overlay



Zone that was submitted formally to the Overstrand Municipality for consideration. This year the OM focus is on the new five-year Integrated Development Plan which will begin in July 2023 and we have asked them to please incorporate the RECOZ into the IDP. Also presented at the Ward Feedback were the Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay proposal for a Hangklip Conservation Overlay Zone to help us keep dark night skies.

SERVICES, EDUCATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Water pipe replacement in southern Rooiels was successfully completed. The road repairs took much engagement given that the very limited and old equipment has to be shared with all our neighbours' dirt roads. We thank Mr. Van Rhodie and his team for working with us over the year. We have requested that the new IDP prioritises equipment for the Kleinmond OM section especially in light of how much the villages have grown. We have also requested replacement of water pipes for other parts of Rooiels which are starting to see an upsurge in broken pipes.

Public bins here have been maintained by volunteers and we have asked OM to include public bin maintenance and road sign refurbishing in their IDP budget. Thanks to all those who have been so generous with their time.

RERA and REC have been working closely together and have shared efforts and expenses on the cost of baboon information attendants with businesses in the Village centre over peak holiday periods. We will continue with these efforts over the Christmas school holidays. Thanks to Drummond Arms which employs their own attendant to support their patrons every weekend. We have also worked with Overstrand Municipality to erect their baboon information signs. The resident information packs have been compiled and are distributed as we learn of new residents. This helps them settle into to the village and understand some of the challenges and opportunities of living here. *Save Cape Baboons* are supporting us in obtaining additional baboon information signs to alert visitors to lock their vehicles.

The garden, on the northwest corner (opposite the circle, under the milkwoods), has rehabilitated well and is now looking good. We will start watering the planted CBD gardens again at the end of October. We have had a response from the Provincial roads department that they are looking into traffic calming measures on the R44. All these things take multiple contact efforts. We were less successful in getting the Overstrand Municipality to put in place a system to ensure that all prospective and new ratepayers are advised of the particular challenges and opportunities of living in this area. But we will persist. At the recent public baboon meeting, the Mayor referred to the success of a system whereby new ratepayers sign a document that confirms their acceptance of local regulations and norms. She promised to help establish a similar system in the Overstrand that will inform new owners of the adaptations required for living in a Biosphere.

RERA has a representative on the Joint Operations Committee (JOCOM) and on the newly resuscitated Community Police Forum (CPF) which should help us to keep informed and to support RESA and the Police in securing the village.

Anne Botha

COMMUNICATIONS

The RERA Exco meetings have been held as hybrid meetings and although most of us have attended in person, there have been times where some of us have joined online. A comprehensive communications process for the village has been established. Regular member and Ward feedback newsletters have been sent out to keep everyone in touch with what is happening. Please be sure to contact us with your email address, or join the Rooiels Communications WhatsApp group to get access. We hope that we can take advantage of the digital era and that those of you who may not be able to attend the AGM in person will join us on Zoom.

The AGM will be held at 10:00 on Friday, 30 December 2022 in the Pringle Bay Hall. A zoom link will be sent out by email and placed on the Rooiels Communications WhatsApp.

We welcome all Rooiels ratepayers to join RERA – you can email rera@rooiels.org.za or check the website for details.

The RERA EXCO would like to thank all Rooielsers including REC, RESA, the Boat Club, and Rooiels Outreach for their assistance and support this year and for protecting our ecosystem and our community.

||| We wish you all every joy
||| over the holidays and
||| best wishes for 2023. |||



The warm, low angled sunlight in this photograph combine to give the image an evocative mood which speaks to the peace and quiet of the location. The composition is well considered as the foreground elements effectively frame the human subject adding depth, while also contributing to a layered rendition of space where the foreground, middle ground, and background occupy distinct zones further allowing the viewer to read the depth in this space. The protruding rock in the foreground is also notable for how its overlap with the different zones bring a sense of unity to the composition.


THINKING FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS

A VISION OF THE FUTURE—
Rooiels to remain as it is. A
village set in, and part of, nature.

We are so blessed to live in an area that still has so much of the local fynbos and all the creatures that live in it. Of course, it is inevitable for the few remaining erven to be built. But if we can keep as much of Rooiels as naturally as possible, we will retain this haven's magic. Rooielsers have fought valiantly over many years to ensure that we avoid replacing our fynbos

with parking places, pavements, and lawns. We encourage people to garden part of their erf and to leave other areas to nature. If a fence is really required, consider enclosing only a part of the erf to allow wildlife to roam around and between properties.

RERA engages to support effective service delivery in this small village. Their most vital long-term goal is working with the Overstrand Municipality so that they understand the significant value of keeping Rooiels natural – for the future of tourism, for the future value of the properties, for the well-being of those who live here, and most of all, for our biodiversity. The value of a place where people still live with nature is what makes us unique now. It will become increasingly scarce and valuable in the future.

If we live up to our Vision and support local plants and live with the animals that are part of that ecosystem, we enrich our own lives and ensure that our children's children will experience living in nature. It is not always the easy choice, but it is what most Rooielsers would like. It can be done. 

NOTICE OF THE 50TH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
30 DECEMBER 2022 – 10:00
PRINGLE BAY HALL

KENNISGEWING VAN DIE 50^{STE}
ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING



IAN LEWIS



Pathway for Human-Baboon Coexistence

Building a pathway to ensure the peaceful coexistence of people and baboons in Rooiels to preserve them as part of our biosphere for future generations

This year, the Rooiels Conservancy (REC), in keeping with the REC mission statement, has focused on conserving our “landscapes, marine environment and indigenous flora and fauna”.

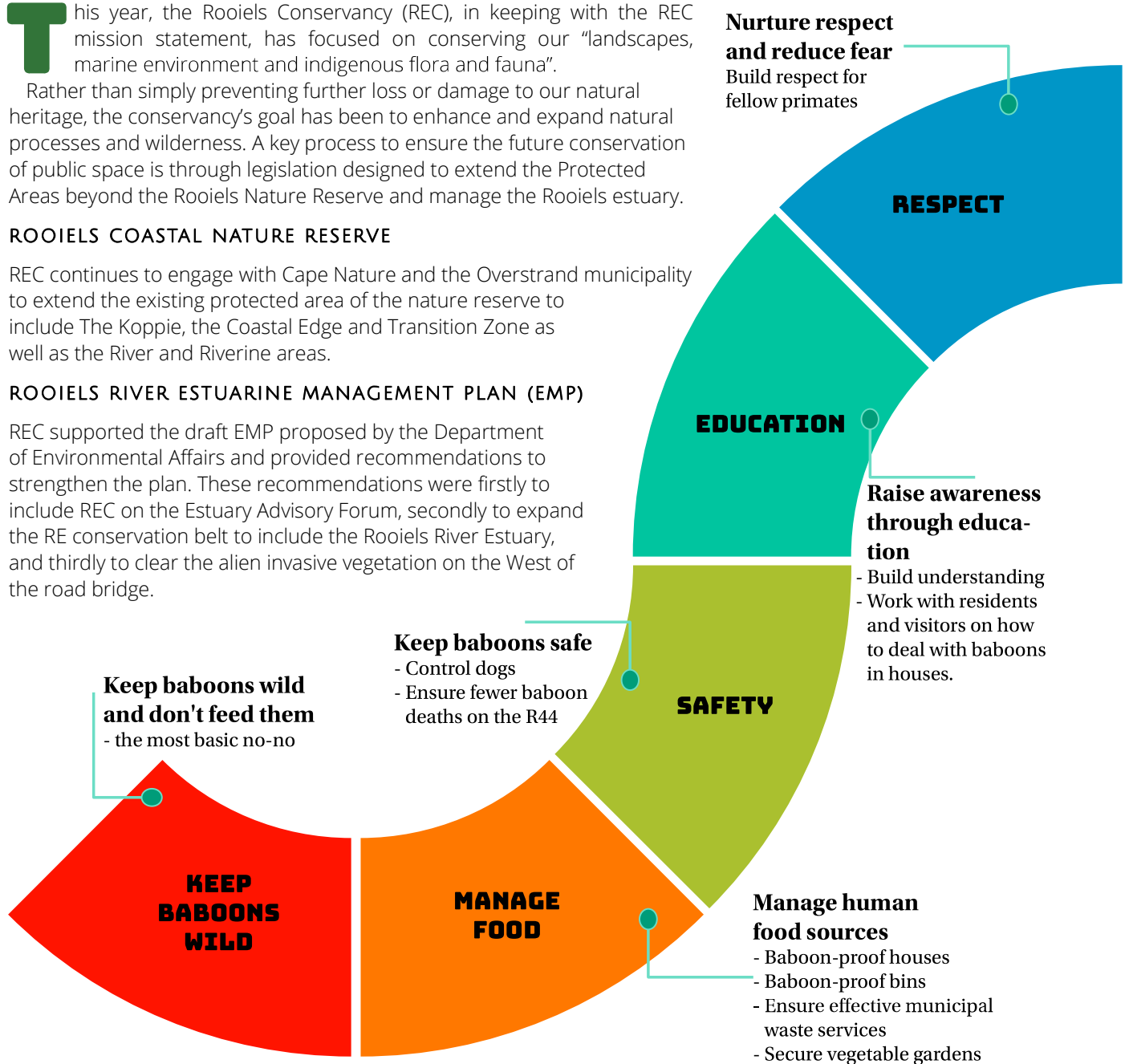
Rather than simply preventing further loss or damage to our natural heritage, the conservancy's goal has been to enhance and expand natural processes and wilderness. A key process to ensure the future conservation of public space is through legislation designed to extend the Protected Areas beyond the Rooiels Nature Reserve and manage the Rooiels estuary.

ROOIELS COASTAL NATURE RESERVE

REC continues to engage with Cape Nature and the Overstrand municipality to extend the existing protected area of the nature reserve to include The Koppie, the Coastal Edge and Transition Zone as well as the River and Riverine areas.

ROOIELS RIVER ESTUARINE MANAGEMENT PLAN (EMP)

REC supported the draft EMP proposed by the Department of Environmental Affairs and provided recommendations to strengthen the plan. These recommendations were firstly to include REC on the Estuary Advisory Forum, secondly to expand the RE conservation belt to include the Rooiels River Estuary, and thirdly to clear the alien invasive vegetation on the West of the road bridge.



BABOONS

Baboons are essential to maintain the integrity of our biosphere as they distribute fynbos seeds while they forage. In 1948 the first survey of the Rooiels River Estuary recorded baboons living and foraging where our village is located today. Rooiels residents participated in the 2021 Rooiels Baboon Coexistence Indaba and developed strategies to ensure a peaceful Human-Baboon coexistence, summarised in the diagram below.

In keeping with the recommendations from the Indaba, REC helped to organise and contribute to Baboon Information Officers in the Rooiels CBD during busy periods. We provided Baboon awareness signs to assist the CBD businesses and arranged with Overstrand to erect Baboon Information signs at the Slipway and in the CBD.

Sadly, baboons remain at considerable risk of injury and death from motor vehicles and altercations with domestic animals.

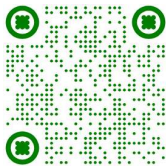
Appreciation

Preserving baboons as part of the biosphere for future generations.

APPRECIATION

HACKING ALIEN VEGETATION

The contribution of many generous hackers over generations has helped us to control the invasive aliens and maintain our fynbos. There is a hard core of regular hackers, but we need more volunteers to help us on the first Saturday of each month. We remember with great fondness Dick Lockley who passed away earlier this year. Dick was a huge contributor to Rooiels and an enthusiastic hacker who led the hack team for many years.




LEOPARD SIGHTINGS

If you haven't yet done so, click over to

rooiels.org.za/blog-for-leopard-photos

and see the short video of a novel sighting of a beautiful young leopard visiting the Rooiels River cave. This project continues thanks to the passion and dedication of Gavin Lundie, Ralph Pina, Jill Lockley and Karin Burns who regularly hike up to the caves to check cameras, change batteries and share the photographs, videos and information with us and with the Cape Leopard Trust.

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to REC members for donating funds over and above their membership fees, to the Rooiels Boat Club for their financial support, and to the villagers who collected and paid for the repairs to the hack equipment. Huge gratitude to John Charalambous for all the repairs and maintenance including repairing the boardwalk in the Nature Reserve, the chain ladder paths over the dunes, the public bins and installing information signs. Thank you to those who cleaned up the Ottergat area after a heavy storm. Finally, thank you to the REC executive committee members Gavin Lundie (Vice-Chair), Eldie Brink (Secretary), Lesley Lundie, (Treasurer) and Frank Raymond who volunteered their time, expertise, and energy towards conserving our beautiful environment. 

DOGS

When taken off their owner's property, they must be in control by a person and restrained by a leash.

It is against the Municipality's by-law to have dogs off-leash in any street or public place.

Section 6(2) and (3) of this by-law stipulate that "No person may, or cause to be allowed, any dog to be in a public place unless it is kept on a leash."

Spot fines might be issued to people who transgress the law. Dogs that are off leash do not only pose a problem to people using public facilities, but it is also dangerous should someone get attacked and hurt in the process.

It is important for dog owners to consider those that do not like or are fearful of dogs – let us respect other people's space and communal use of facilities.

Residents who walk their dogs must have bags with them to pick up dog droppings. In fact, carry extras and offer them to dog owners who aren't prepared or may not yet be educated about the importance of picking up after their dogs.

Any contravention of this by-law can be reported to the Municipality's Law Enforcement at 0283138996 or 24-hour Safety and Security Control Room at 0283138980. Alternatively, send an e-mail to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za (for the attention of law enforcement), providing us with the licence plate or address of the person concerned.

Overstrand Municipal Manager,
Dean O'Neill.

Dog droppings can exert negative effects on biodiversity and ecosystems.





Ralph, Marion, and youngest daughter, Heather



JACKIE LEPPAN

RALPH & MARION PINA

Although we have spent most of our adult lives in Stellenbosch, first as students, and after four years on the west coast, as residents (about 40 years in all) the Kogelberg coast is not foreign to us. For at least 20 years it has been my playground - hiking, cycling and sea kayaking. But I first got to appreciate its wild beauty back in 1980, courtesy of the army. The officer selection course took us on a five-day forced march from Sir Lowry's Pass, via Palmiet, Leopard's Gorge, Hangklip, and Rooiels to Steenbras. The only road we were allowed to walk on was the coastal road between Pringle Bay and Rooiels, all while lugging self-made stretchers after swimming across the Buffel's River. That night we collapsed in the dune in the estuary where the bridge is now for an exhausted sleep. Even then, Rooiels left an indelible imprint on my brain.

Over the years during many visits and house and plot searches, we concluded that we would want to settle in Rooiels - and not any of the other villages on the coast. Why? The community clearly has a strong ecological ethic, best represented by the desire to live in harmony with the baboon troop and other wildlife. The village cannot expand, it is low density, most residents maintain a natural fynbos "garden" which is befitting its location in a treasure house of endemic fynbos species, there are no streetlights and light pollution, it is, crucially, part of a biosphere reserve and relatively unspoilt, and the mountains and coast are incredibly beautiful. Rooiels is a throwback to when the Cape coast, as we remember it from our youth, was relatively unpaved, where Nature's retreat is at least slower.

What's not to love? There is a sense of place here with which we identify absolutely.

Jackie Leppan was born in Umglanga Rocks, KZN and semigrated to the Western Cape 16 years ago. After running a successful bespoke bed and breakfast, called "69 On Echo" located in Fish Hoek, she relocated to Rooiels in October 2021 with a vision of running another guest house. Following six months of renovations, Rox Villa was established and ready to receive guests.

Jackie has become accustomed to and loves the silence that enfolds Rooiels - life here moves slowly and has a purpose, paying homage to the vast expanse of nature that borders the village. Lying restfully under the Klein-Hangklip Mountain, this lazy sanctuary was not fitted with modern-day amenities. This, coupled with its pearly white beaches, spectacular bay, sublime sunsets, and starry sky unaltered by artificial light is what attracted Jackie to Rooiels.

Jackie loves the ocean. Currently, as owner/host of Rox Villa, she loves sharing her knowledge of the ocean whilst providing her guests with a rewarding, personalised experience in this unforgettable location. She is committed to curating memories of a lifetime for every guest that she hosts. She is accompanied by Duke, her super friendly 13-year-old chocolate Labrador.



Achim, Beatrice, Tatjana, and Julia

ACHIM & BEATRICE HALPAAP

The moment we first visited Rooiels, the magic of Klein Hangklip, the ocean, the birds, the baboons, the wind, and its welcoming residents warmed our hearts.

Our dream to spend more time in South Africa has become a reality. Rooiels is now our second home for six months of the year, next to Preveessin in France. We are lucky

and happy that our daughters Tatjana and Julia, and their partners Jorge and Luca, also love Rooiels and visit regularly. Still working part-time on international public health and environmental issues, we are seeing the many challenges this wonderful country is facing and appreciate the commitment of its people and many Rooielsers to address them. As we continue to settle, we hope to be able to make our own contribution in a meaningful way. What do we wish for Rooiels? That awareness is maintained that we live in a conservancy within UNESCO's Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve which affects how we live; and that the diversity of people and views in Rooiels is appreciated as one of the greatest assets this amazing community has.

LEON & TRACY CRONJE

Leon is oorspronklik van Durban en Tracy is 'n gebore Kapenaar. Ons het eers teen die Atlantiese kus en daarna in die noordelike voorstede gewoon. Ons is in Desember 2020 vir die eerste keer aan Rooiels bekendgestel en het ons eiendom drie maande later in Maart 2021 gekoop.

Ons was aangetrokke tot die natuurlike omgewing, omring deur die see aan die een kant en die berge aan die ander kant. Ons was bekoor daardeur dat mense saam met bobbejane leef en hul teenwoordigheid omhels.

Ons het twee dogters. Toe ons hierheen verhuis het, het ons twee Schnauzers (Diesel en Lily) en 'n kat (Aladdin) gehad. Ongelukkig was Diesel diabeties en is vroeë vanjaar dood.

Ons hoop vir hierdie dorpie is dat mense wat hier woon, die natuurlike skoonheid, alle diere en

die betekenis van eienaarskap van hul onmiddellike omgewing sal omhels, onderhou en aanvaar om te verseker dat die natuur nie versteur of vernietig word nie.

Ons het weggetrek van die stad en voorstede om nader aan 'n meer natuurlike omgewing te wees, met minder mense, maar nouer

verbindintense. Ons hoop om aan te hou woon in 'n gebied wat wild en vry is van die vertoon van die voorstede.

"The goal of life is living in agreement with nature" ZENO

"There are always flowers for those who want to see them" HENRI MATISSE



50 Years of Care

The Rooiels Ratepayers' Association is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

This is a great achievement for any association and is thanks to significant efforts by many people over many years. We explored the book: **Rooiels - A village between the mountains and the sea - Tussen berge en die see** and past copies of the Breeze to reflect on what it takes to live in harmony with nature.



WILLIE DU PLOOY



In 1687, Simon van der Stel ordered the charting of False Bay. Among the descriptions of their findings, they documented Hang Lip (denoted as such in the Caledon Divisional Council Map of 1917), which was later renamed to Hangklip. The area changed hands a few times until 1780 when Jacobus Louw took over the section between the Palmiet and Rooiels¹. The Encyclopaedia of South Africa shows that “the farm Rooiels, of 1331 morgen, 15 km south of Gordon’s Bay, was personally granted as freehold to Adrian Johannes Louw on 30 April 1839 by Sir George Napier, Governor of the Cape Colony.

Part of the conditions are still to be seen in the title deeds today. That the road and thoroughfare leading to Waaygat Bay shall also remain free and that the public shall be allowed to unteam their cattle at the said bay – and be allowed without

hindrance to fish there. “He was expected to bring the land into a state of cultivation as it is capable of.” As a result, the valleys were regularly burned to provide better grazing and the rhinos, buffalo, and lion were hunted to extinction. A forest of Rooiels trees (*Cunonia capensis*), stinkwood, yellowwood, and milkwood trees were felled for furniture, shipbuilding, and floors.

Brothers John and William Walsh bought the entire area from Palmiet to Rooiels in 1899. In the 1930s John Walsh and his wife were killed in a tragic accident and the court decreed that the properties be sold to provide funds for the children’s education. Harold Porter, Jack Clarence, and A Youldon bought it and formed Hangklip Beach Estates Ltd. The Pringle Bay area was proclaimed in 1936 and Rooiels in 1942 (now 80 years ago), also the year in which construction on Clarence Drive started. Up to the end of the war, this was a military road, and a permit was needed to make use of it.

In 1946, George Blake of Blake’s Bricks in Stellenbosch bought plot 52 in Rooiels and started building the following year. Because there was no slipway, he blasted a way through the rocks and laid a concrete foundation on the beach. On 23 June 1948, the area between the foot of Klein Hangklip and the sea was declared a township. The first shop was opened by Issie Ryke in 1970.

¹ The term *Rooi Els* may pop up in quoted text and contributed articles. The proper spelling is Rooiels (in both Afrikaans and English). It is the Afrikaans common name of the *Cunonia capensis* tree, of which the English common name is *Red Alder*.

Then, in 1972 the Rooiels Ratepayers' Association (RERA) was founded by a group of property owners

to, among other things, object to the planned R44 coastal highway that would follow Porter Drive seaward of Klein Hangklip towards Pringle Bay, cutting across the beach in a straight line. Skakel Kriek, the chairman of RERA at the time, lobbied and convinced the MEC of Local Government and the Provincial Roads Engineer to change the routing of the R44. Sheer determination secured a successful outcome because the mayor of Kleinmond at the time refused to be of any assistance.

By 1981 only 125 Rooiels erven had been developed and the picnic area above the bridge was closed to the public and fenced off because of litter. The Argus of 27 May 1981: "Rooiels is stone dead. With the exception of the fire seven years ago, the birth of the baby is the greatest single event in its history."

Rooiels CBD, 1984

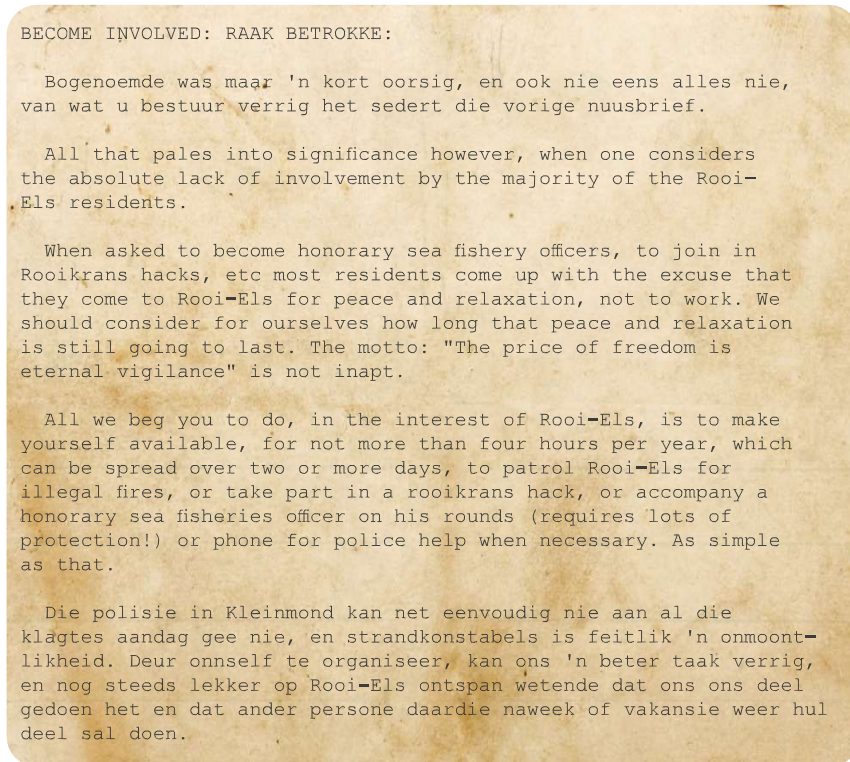
Photograph courtesy of Jill Lockley



Eldie Brink started the Breeze in the 80s to share information with the community. The October 1981 edition starts with a reminder that "the number of problems which affect the very well-being of Rooi Els still remain". In what would become known as Eldie's serious outlook on matters pertaining to Rooiels, he states that...

Breeze, Oct 1981

...the purpose of the newsletter is to stir villagers into action to assist in solving these problems.



rooikrans from road reserves. This spurred a renewed call for people to join the hacks, and to assist with the running costs of the petrol saw. A shocking reminder followed that, while huge success had been achieved by the committee, there remained an "absolute lack of involvement by the majority of Rooi Els residents". It was reported then, as is still the case today, that Kleinmond police could not handle all the complaints and that Rooiels could benefit if its residents would self-organise. Of particular interest was the alarming concern about "divers who are after the last unlucky remaining perlemoen or crayfish, in what was once an underwater paradise".

"We will not, therefore, lull you into a false sense of security by painting pretty pictures of birds and bees and flowers!" is how he leads into the four-page body of the newsletter that highlights several of the issues we seem to still grapple with today. Eldie writes that Rooiels is one of the first townships in the country where all building plans are evaluated and approved by a committee of specialists in areas pertaining to nature and environmental conservation. And, hot off the press was the news that a portion of Rocklands Road had been deregistered as part of the plan to incorporate it into the proposed nature reserve. The Divisional Council shared the sad news that villagers would have to foot the bill for the removal of

In May 1982, aside from reminding residents to renew their 1982 membership to assist with administration and other running costs, most of the newsletter explained why the committee had not objected to a newly built wooden house and ended with the comment that “[we] have lots of other news, but we have run out of funds for stationery.” In the November 1982 edition, news of the first blown-off roof for the season was shared, and it was announced that Rooiels had a new parking system but that it did not apply to residents and their guests. News in March 1983 was that a proposed trunk road that would pass through Rooiels, had instead been proclaimed to follow the existing tarred road. This was hugely celebrated, of course.

Fast-forward eight years, and encouragement still focused on strengthening community support for the endeavours of RERA. The RERA executive was given the mandate to negotiate with the **Rooiels Civic Association** to bring about the establishment of only one fully representative ratepayers’ association in Rooiels. The Civic Association was consequently disbanded and donated their remaining funds in equal parts to the NSRI for the promotion of their work and to RERA for the eradication of rooikrans. Earlier that year a huge fire raged from Kogelbaai to within about a kilometre of Rooiels. Excellent support from the fire department, a favourable wind direction and the ravine saved the day. The fire

chief was quite clear that, had the fire reached Rooiels, very little could have been done to save many – perhaps most – of the houses. This spurred an increased focus on the hacking of rooikrans, which is dangerously combustible even when green. The fire also raised an important topic around fire protection in general, which became an urgent focus of RERA and the Rooiels Local Council. Professors Kay de Villiers and Tony Hall set the wheels in motion for this.

The minutes of the 1989 RERA AGM accompanied the April 1990 Breeze. In it, we learn that the noise from generators was becoming unbearable but that talks with Eskom were progressing well to provide electricity to Rooiels, preferably underground because, as Eskom themselves pointed out, it is “more efficient and environmentally acceptable”. At the time, it was estimated that it would take another three years for electricity to be available to homes in Rooiels. Meanwhile, investigations were underway to ensure a reliable water supply to Rooiels for the next 30 years. It transpired that leaks in the pipe network caused significant unmetered water loss. On the flip side, the good news was that a committee had been appointed to serve on the advisory committee of the Rooiels Nature Reserve, which, along with its boundaries, was gazetted on 4 May 1984. Other matters that were highlighted in this report were the future of the hotel site and its

possible subdivision into erven, the deproclamation of Arctotis Road, the status of Porter Drive, the dangerous nature of the road entrances to Rooiels, rationalisation of signboards in Rooiels, and, of course, rooikrans eradication.

At RERA’s request, the Minister of Local Management and Housing established the Rooiels Local Council to work with Regional Council Services and to be of service to and look after the interests of all property owners. The Exco members of RERA became its first councillors. Prof Denis Cowen was chairperson from 1990 to 1994 and was followed up by Julia Aalbers for 1995 and 1996. This was vital for the Somchem court case which followed. The Rooiels Local Council played a leading role in ending the testing of missiles and rocket fuels so close to the source of drinking water for the surrounding villages. When Local Councils were dissolved, Rooiels first became part of the Hangklip Municipality and then was absorbed into the new Hangklip Kleinmond Municipality, with Julia Aalbers as the councillor. Dennis continued to support her and Geoff Harris, the then chairman of RERA, in the ongoing Somchem saga. Said Jean, Denis’s wife in the Rooiels book: “Invaluable support, through generous contributions towards our legal costs and through the sharing of invaluable expertise and administrative support, came from individuals and other organisations in Pringle Bay, Betty’s Bay and Kleinmond. The matter was finally resolved at the end of 1997.”

Rooiels CBD, 1997

Photograph courtesy of Jill Lockley



ROOIELS BREEZE

NOVEMBER/DESEMBER 1996

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1996

REDAKSIONEEL



EDITORIAL

Gerhard Scholtz kicks off the Breeze of May 1996 with a copy of a letter directed to the Kleinmond/Hangklip Council to express concern that Rooiels residents were paying much more for water than residents in Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay. Geoff Harris, the RERA chairman at the time – after a brief absence of two years – expressed his relief that few things had changed and that it was encouraging to learn at the last AGM that the majority of Rooielsers felt the same. He continued: "Rooiels is quite unique with its peaceful, unspoilt ambience and uncommercialised atmosphere. Here we have a little gem of a holiday hideaway where we can forget the commercial pressures of the daily grind. Let's keep it that way as mandated by the ratepayers." He alluded to the work ahead to shape a Vision for Rooiels "which will guide all of us in the direction which Rooiels should be steered through the turbulent waters ahead."

News broke of the newly formed Sea Watch, of which members were appointed honorary inspectors by Sea Fisheries to focus on education, law enforcement, and repairing of stripped pools. And, importantly, a summary of RERA achievements included the regulation of the slipway so that it wouldn't be overrun by people from outside Rooiels, the court order against Somchem to preserve our water source, that beach clean-ups would occur more frequently, the installation of baboon-proof bins throughout Rooiels, news that the road in front of the businesses would be paved, that two toilets would be built at the slipway to help keep the dunes and bushes

clean, and that the law enforcement portfolio was being worked on to improve security in the village.

In 1997 the Breeze outgrew its tight A5 format and slipped into a comfortable A4 format. But, like so many times in the past – and several times in the future – a scary announcement followed that the Breeze would in future only be sent to paid-up members due to the rising costs of producing the printed copy.

Fortunately, the Breeze continues to receive outstanding support from several associations and individuals in the village who find a way to fund each copy. The printing alone easily exceeds R100 per copy. Commercial magazines that sell for less than that, are heavily subsidised by advertising to cover all the production costs.

This is also the year in which a controlled burn of the Rooiels Nature Reserve took place. Craig Spencer, the municipal nature conservation officer at the time, and Gerard Scholtz laid out a footpath. Jean Cowen inspired the creation of a herbarium because several plants

flower only once following a burn. It would therefore be a rare event. Following fundraising that included a concert by "Marius [Weyers] and Friend [Gerard]", the first paper press was made by Pierre du Toit and Prof Tony Hall donated the herbarium case. Anuta Scholtz started to record the plant species and soon collected 124 flowering species. They were classified with the help of the staff of the Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens, prof. Tony Hall, and the staff of the Bolus-herbarium at UCT.

RERA, celebrating 25 years, afforded its first honorary memberships to Skakel Kriek and Denis Cowen.

Geoff Harris shared the unfortunate news that candidates who had not been voted onto the RERA Exco had started the *Rooiels Residents' Association*. While he expressed concern that such a small and tightly knit community could be split by such action, he wished them well and expressed the hope that they would lighten the load by helping with hacking, cleaning, and civic actions. Geoff reminded readers that the RERA Exco offered their services free of charge and for the love of the





...there are those who perceive you as some sort of public servant, or an amenity to be used and abused,

cause and that their role was to protect interests and to act in an advisory capacity. Fresh news was that the Rooiels Vision had been finalised and accepted unanimously. A funny entry (translated from Afrikaans): "I would give anything to have a leopard in my garden. Sadly, there are people who become hysterical when they see a mouse, spider, snake, baboon, or wild cat, not to mention a leopard. They consider all these beautiful animals of the veld as vermin. It is so funny that people buy a holiday house to escape civilisation, and then get such a fright when nature takes a step in their direction. After all, Rooiels is baboon, dassie, mongoose, and leopard territory."



As the 20th century drew to a close and the world waited in anticipation to see whether computers would calculate the year 2000 properly, or whether doomsday prophets were right that the end of the world was upon us, the November 1999 copy of the Breeze bravely opened with "Have you ever thought about what Rooiels would look in 100 years? Gerard, who had been curating the Breeze with such great care for several years, wraps up his tenure by putting this question to readers. After many years as chairman, Geoff Harris decided to retire. Geoff felt the need to explain his sudden decision, though. He wrote: "When, as chairman, you actually LIVE in the village..."

irrespective of the day, place, or time. They forget that what we do, we do voluntarily out of love for this place and for the good of ratepayers in general. I have endured calls before dawn and as late as eleven at night. I have also suffered umpteen 'visitations' on Sundays and any other day of the week. It seems to be a case of, 'I have a problem – and that gives me the right to just barge in at will – and as often as I like.' Even my daily walks are not inviolate. Few of these intrusions ever refer to anything urgent ... many thanks to the vast majority of ratepayers who are grateful for what RERA does to sustain our beloved Rooiels in these very difficult times." Later, in the same edition, another contribution from Geoff shared his and Lynn's experience in moving to Rooiels permanently. From being amazed by the few wind-free months, the

We bought our Rooiels beach cottage on erf 206 in 1987. The lack of electricity was an added attraction as we were used to gas and paraffin from our shack on the Wild Coast, which Rooiels was replacing.

It was not long before I became involved in RERA, and, in doing so found myself amongst some truly amazing and dedicated people, who also loved the quiet ambience of Rooiels. We faced many problems together, not the least of which, was Somchem/Denel testing weapons and LEO rocket motors in the Buffelsrivier dam catchment area, which led to serious concerns about the pollution of our water supply. After lengthy negotiations broke down, we ended up in court and, under Professor Denis Cowen and 'Lang Dawid' managed to evict Somchem but it took many years and plenty of donated money. I think we raised over R1m, which was a lot back then. Without the contributions (monetary and otherwise) of wonderful people like Dirk Mudge, Dr Nino Costa, Avril Nunn and Jean Cowen, the outcome might have been very different!

As Rooiels started to grow, RERA realised that the convenience of ESKOM power was needed for permanent residents. (How many of you reading this would have moved to a Rooiels without electricity?) A referendum confirmed that the majority of Rooielsers were in favour – and ESKOM moved in to lay their cables.

We became permanent residents in 1999 and my involvement in RERA continued. Lynn's support, especially during my 8 years as Chairman, was amazing. Without her encouragement, I might well have packed it in earlier.

We left Rooiels for Heritage Manor in June 2021, and a recent visit made me realize that Rooiels is well on the way to becoming a 'False Bay Llandudno' with more and more huge homes being erected. Progress, bringing more people, is inevitable in such a beautiful environment.

Having moved from Rooiels, what do I miss? The sunsets, the stars, the mussels, the people, the walks, the relative peace and quiet. Those who live there are very privileged, so do treasure it.

Sincere congratulations and thanks to RERA for all that has been achieved over the years. It is an honour to have done my little bit, and my Honorary Life Membership is truly appreciated and treasured.

by Geoff Harris, RERA Chairperson, comprising 8 years

tranquillity, and the beautiful night sky "(except for the odd thoughtless pool of light-pollution)", to recalling how Lynn, who was heavily opposed to moving away from their thatched cottage in Pinelands, said: "You know, we only made one mistake with this move – we should have done it three years ago..."

Basil Moss acted in the chairman role for the remainder of the year. He and Elizabeth were also

newcomers to Rooiels, and he wrote that we live here in a paradise – one of the most beautiful places on Earth and that we would have to put our personal differences aside and work together to fulfil the vision of Rooiels. He affirmed his position that **the vision is the only guideline of RERA and that every decision will be tested against that vision.**

Sadly, several committee members indicated their unwillingness to serve another term, so Basil called on new blood to step forward.

The world didn't end, and computers managed to count past 1999. Ina Coetzee saw a leopard at the manganese mine and Chris Gillmore and Jo Henson almost pulled a Bryde Whale onboard their boat, thinking it might be a large piece of builder's black plastic.

Bries Breeze

December 2000
Rooiels Ratepayers Association
PO Box 89 Betty's Bay 7141

Redaksioneel

I could not imagine a greater privilege. The Breeze is an important project and has its roots as the original mouthpiece for the Rooiels Ratepayers' Association. To oversee it this year was indeed a humbling experience. It is an enormous task involving several people and requiring huge funding. Over the years, this amazing project was carefully handed from one curator to the next with the utmost care, solid support, and the best of wishes. Each new curator approaches the task bright-eyed and bushy-tailed with the best intentions to produce a product worthy of the reader's time. It is not about outshining anyone else. It is about standing on the shoulders of giants and knowing that those before you are steadfast.

One must only work through a collection of previous copies, to discover that themes are often repeated. How then, do you create something new? The answer, I guess, is you don't even try. Some topics remain relevant, and a fresh take is all that's needed to bring the message across. And the message is quite fundamental: how do we stir villagers into action to assist in solving the many challenges we face?

Researching for this article was truly an emotional rollercoaster. The ups were when I witnessed the selfless contributions of so many past and current Rooielsers – truly heart-warming. The downs were when I read about the rifts between people and the misalignment with the Vision. This edition is about celebrating the past and looking ahead to the future.

How do we reorganise to remain the kind and nurturing community that we are known for? It's easy to disconnect from everything happening in the village (some call it 'politics') and just enjoy the surroundings – sip cocktails on your balcony at sunset, take a dip in the ocean, go for a stroll in the veld. But spare a thought for the hundreds of people over the years who have endured politics so that you can enjoy the bliss in Rooiels. We each choose between being a passive user or an active contributor to preserving it for future generations

**Our Vision.....
An ecologically
well balanced area
Where man and nature
thrive in harmony**

So many stories forever carried in the wind

A contribution on behalf of Charlie, the then-leader of the baboon troop, expressed excitement in anticipation of the arrival of the 'smooth-skins' that accompany feasting for all, though he had "noticed a bit of an attitude problem when [we are caught with their] Christmas fare – the goodwill part of the Christmas spirit seems to vanish with the food we take." Meanwhile, after seven years of perseverance, Rooiels could celebrate the fact that erf 324 would not be subdivided into 13 erven, following the High Court's decision to set aside an earlier decision to the contrary. The eagle chick died, and a huge falling rock destroyed the last remaining Rooiels trees (*Cunonia capensis*; red alder; butter spoon tree) along Clarence Drive.

In December 2000, this municipality was, in turn, absorbed into the Overstrand Municipality. Throughout all these changes in local government dispensations, RERA has remained constant in its efforts to promote sustainable living and to preserve the natural beauty

"All change is hard at first, messy in the middle and gorgeous at the end."

by Robin S. Sharma, The 5AM Club

and splendour of Rooiels.
Most property owners in Rooiels bought here because of the uniqueness of the surroundings. Over the years the mandate to RERA was that this "flavour" should be preserved at all costs.

"Sustainable living means minimising our human impact as far as possible. It means caring for and respecting our majestic natural environment, always according to the place of honour. It means being prepared to give back more to Rooiels than we take from it. Caring for Rooiels has always been a team effort much wider than just the RERA Exco, involving many talented and passionate Rooielsers."

The first colour photograph appears in the Breeze of December 2002, the year that RERA turned 30!

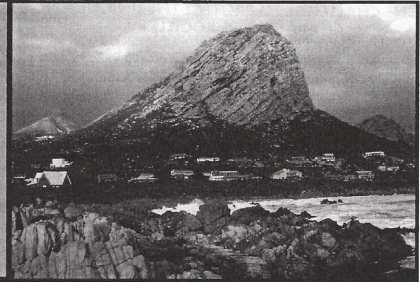
Everyone knows Wolf. He has traversed the whole of Rooiels and worked his fingers to the bone to support the Rooiels way. Moving from a nature reserve in the Magaliesberg, he and Karin were lured to Rooiels for its natural beauty and clean air. Wolf, along with Jill Lockley, spent many years maintaining the wildlife cameras that provide valuable information to the Cape Leopard Trust. He expressed a keen interest in learning more about nature, the fynbos, the birds, the stars, and the baboons. Later, in the 2010 Breeze, they expressed their dream for Rooiels in 20 years (translated): "Silence, dark nights, green principles, an amalgamation of man and nature, a legacy to the next generation – not only of people but also of animals." How inspiring!

'n laaste asem
se woorde het opgedroog
net eind'lose mmm...

HAIKOE DEUR GERARD SCHOLTZ

Bries Breeze

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



RERA 30 YEARS! REBV 30 JAAR!

Bries Breeze

DECEMBER 2002 DESEMBER

In 2002 RERA celebrated its 30th year of existence! Estelle Raymond became the chairperson, Gerard returned as editor of the Breeze and the Boat Club continued to be the primary sponsor of the publication. After 22 years of hacking by die-hards, Hettie Claassens became the hack coordinator, and the hack store moved to her house. There was renewed focus and education on invasive plants. Estelle reminded readers that "over the years this extraordinary place has attracted some rather extraordinary people – people who love this place for its own sake with a passion as fierce as the wind ... We pay tribute to the Rooielsers who have achieved all this. Over the years many of them have either stepped down from public office, moved or even passed

away, but their spirit remains alive on the wind.

Caring for Rooiels is a relay race. When one person falls or grows tired, there are fresh generations of Rooielsers ready and waiting to take the baton and run.

We will run swiftly, but tread carefully. We have not inherited Rooiels, we have borrowed it from our children."

That year, Jenny Stark provided feedback about a five-month-long Rooiels Survivor Game, launched to out-think, out-smart, and outwit the baboons and keep them outside houses. It was confirmed that baboons did visit the village more frequently during holiday season. This appeared to be because pickings are easy – remember, a baboon will return to a successful feeding spot (bush or house). In December 2001, 88% of visits to the village resulted in successful 'hits', with 77% in January 2002. Fewer visits occurred in September 2001, while of only half those visits were rewarded. Sadly, over the same

period, a young male baboon was found dead following suspected poisoning, three dogs fatally injured another young male baboon, the same dogs isolated two baboons on a roof, one of these dogs was shot after attacking the conservation officer, and reports were received of Rooielsers shooting at baboons with pellet guns.

Jenny asked what this had to do with conservation and offered this answer:

“Simply this. Conservation is not only about preserving human privilege. It is about saving things we like, but also saving things we don’t like. It is about taking responsibility for keeping baboons out of our houses and out of our rubbish. It is about taking responsibility for our domestic animals. It is about tolerance and compassion. But most of all, it is about finding ways to coexist in harmony with the wildlife on our doorstep.”

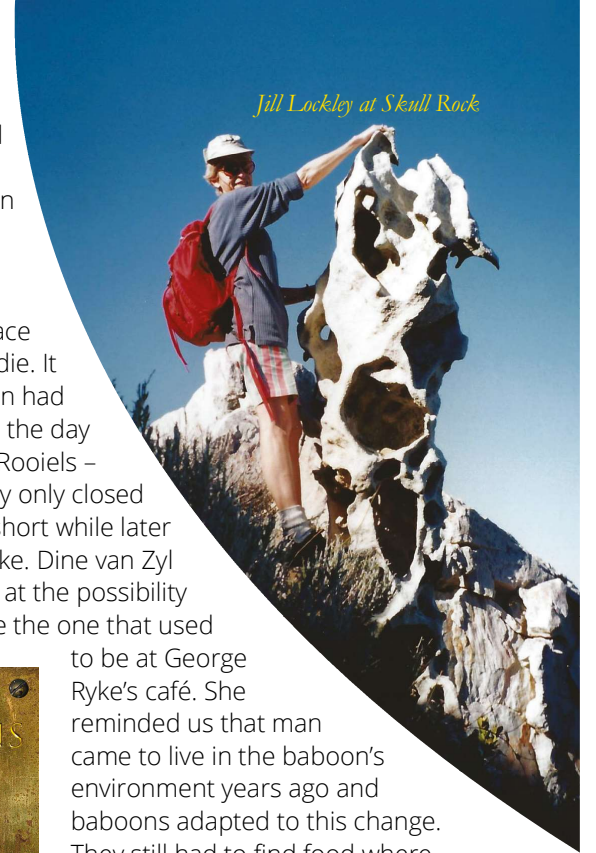
The first Rooiels Vision was adopted unanimously in 1996. It was revisited and again extensively workshopped in the village in 2003 by a working group comprising Rob Fryer, Izak Lessing, Geoff Harris, Estelle Raymond, Chris Burlock, and Debby de Vries. This process gave rise to a publication called “Living the Rooiels Vision”. In the same year, Debbie, the RERA Exco member tasked with conservation, became the first chairperson of the formally established Rooiels Conservancy. Just two years prior, in 2001, RERA had initiated steps to improve the security of the village. Several attempts were made to formalise security measures, until 2014 when RESA was officially established (read about that elsewhere in this edition).

The first Breeze of 2003 announced the arrival of speed bumps and the placement of two signs at the village entrance to limit the unsightly proliferation of signage in Rooiels. It contained a sad report of a baboon shot in the

head, still clutching a piece of the chocolate cake she had stumbled upon earlier, followed by the discovery of another dead baboon the next day. This second animal was heard calling for 48 hours in the vicinity of the Rooiels Koppie before he finally found a quiet place in the Rooiels Nature Reserve to die. It was reported that the first baboon had almost entered a house earlier in the day when the occupants – visitors to Rooiels – chased her off. They subsequently only closed the lower half of the door, but a short while later the baboon came back for the cake. Dine van Zyl wrote an amusing piece – hinting at the possibility of putting up a baboon statue like the one that used

to be at George Ryke’s café. She reminded us that man came to live in the baboon’s environment years ago and baboons adapted to this change. They still had to find food where baboon generations before them had found it. The environment just looked different, and the food was perhaps packaged a little differently. The man thought the baboon was a nuisance, while the baboon was just being a baboon. She said that Rooiels is a unique community that respects the baboon’s place between mountain and sea; that realises that to live in harmony with nature, is not limited to keeping to the published rules and regulations. Perhaps a monument for the baboon would also serve as a monument for this unique community. These words from Dine follow nicely from the announcement of the formation of a Rooiels Conservancy. And, later the same year, Dine wrote about her conversation with Marius Weyers, who was adamant that Rooiels is precious; that we cannot develop irresponsibly, pave roads, or install street lights. We have to take responsibility for what we do. We are here temporarily and must conserve the fynbos and nature for generations after us. At the end of 2003 and the end of her term as chairperson, Estelle expresses her gratitude for being

Jill Lockley at Skull Rock



(As best as could be determined)

- Skakel Kriek: 1972-1976
- Pieter Fourie: 1977-1978
- G van Rijn: 1979-1980
- Dolf Diedericks: 1981-1984
- Charl du Plessis: 1985
- Denis Cowen: 1986-1989
- Geoff Harris: 1990-1993
- Julia Aalbers: 1994
- Rob Fryer: 1995
- Geoff Harris: 1996-1998
- Dick Lockley (acting): 1998
- Geoff Harris: 1999
- Basil Moss: 2000-2001
- Estelle Raymond: 2002-2003
- Julia Aalbers: 2004
- Rob Fryer: 2005-2006
- Izak Smit: 2007-2008
- Pat Devine: 2009 (until March)
- Julia Aalbers: 2009-2013
- Izak Smit: 2014
- Eneth Kruger: 2015
- Ruth Mattison: 2016-2017
- Allison Vienings: 2018-2019
- Hilgard Muller: 2020-2021
- Kay Leresche: 2022

able to serve such a dedicated and enthusiastic committee. Everyone is a volunteer. She reminded us that each of us loses faith, that it sometimes feels as if the Rooiels we love is being destroyed. And it hurts. But then a whale jumps out of the water in front of us, and we remember that all is not lost. She reminds us that the spirit of Rooiels is not one of despair, negativity, or cowardliness but one of power, love, and respect.

In January 2004 a huge fire approached from the smallholdings and a community held each other close through sheer panic and the consequent devastation. At one point the raging fire was heading to the house of Mike Harrison. The crew struggled to reach the house, but when someone eventually managed to reach Mike, they were amazed at how calmly he was fighting the fire. "He had a bandana over his mouth and a garden hose in his hand and he was watering the fire as if he was gardening on a lovely, sunny Sunday afternoon." The two men continued to fight the fire until it abated. Because the fire no longer posed a risk to the village,

officials decided to burn the rest of Klein Hangklip since it needed to be burned for ecological reasons.

The good news, despite the fire, was that the Rooiels Conservancy was officially established towards the end of 2003 and held its first AGM on 1 May 2004. "Someone once said: People can be divided into three groups. Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wondered what happened. Let's be joyful that Rooielsers are the ones who make things happen."

Worth mentioning from the 2004 RERA report, is news of a workshop on roads, walkways, parking, and fire-fighting issues. All organisations within the community and a senior Municipal officer were present. The Rooi Els Residents' Association, RERA, REC, the Boat Club, the Nature Reserve Liaison Committee, the Save Klein Hangklip Association, and the Biosphere Reserve Action Group participated. Rob Fryer, in his feedback report, wrote: "of course, Rooi Els property owners have different opinions, different needs and different desires. But unfortunately, there is no such thing

as a wide, narrow, straight, winding, pot-holed, tarred, paved, dust-free, dirt road! So, we are going to have to formulate a proposal that satisfies as many criteria as possible for as many people as possible. This implies that many compromises will have to be made to serve the greater good of Rooi Els."

John Hoffmann provided some feedback about external soil that is brought in for road works. They had samples tested by the University of Cape Town and determined that, all things being equal, there was no reason for concern about the external soil being used for the repair of the roads; that it "certainly won't unnecessarily exacerbate the situation for the plants." He reminded readers that Rooiels was no longer an ideal world from the plants' point of view because the vegetation had already suffered severe and irreversible degradation, especially through the construction of dwellings.

Horticulturist Ernst Thompson discusses the effect of water flow because of roadworks and the humps that are created by the grader. Ideally, these humps should

Madeleine Brink



be worked back into the road but despite these imperfections, gravel road far supersedes tar roads in that oil and fuel leakages from vehicles break down much slower on hard surface roads and will be carried into the surrounding vegetation with the first rain. The water run-off from hard surface roads is also much faster because there is no water penetration. He reminded people that it is unwise to indiscriminately remove indigenous vegetation from the road verges. Blombos (*Metalasia muricata*) are often targeted, disregarding the benefit they serve in creating a habitat for more sensitive flora to settle, catching most of the dust from the roads, stabilising the ground and stopping erosion during heavy downpours, and in being an integral part of our endemic fynbos. He is adamant, following discussions with the Parks Board Fire Management officials, "that our existing roads serve as fantastic fire breaks. No fire breaks are thus needed in our residential areas ... We know that *Homo sapiens* is the most adaptable species. Let us then not force nature to adapt to us but let us rather adapt to nature. Nature will not survive the other way round."

Following a crime spree over the preceding 18 months where a quarter of the houses in Rooiels were burgled, Dawid van der Merwe, tasked with the RERA safety and security portfolio, alerted villagers at the end of 2005 that a gang or several unrelated gangs were operating in the area. Their modus operandi was to stake out the house, hit it when convenient, and stash the loot in the fynbos for later collection. Villagers were encouraged to invest in monitored radio alarm systems.

The baboons took centre stage that year through many hours of community engagement and almost 12% of Breeze real estate. The Biosphere Reserve Action Group (BRAG) shared some interesting statistics about Rooiels and



Pringle Bay troops. Contrary to popular belief that the troops are expanding, the Rooiels troop shrunk from 42 in 2003 and 34 in 2004, to only 27 in 2005.

Evelyn Guyett, a 3rd year student from London spent three months studying our baboons. This was a continuation of a project started by Craig Spencer in 2003. She gave a talk at Nick and Hannah's house to share her findings.

"Evelyn's study of the time the Rooi Els and Pringle Bay troops spend on various activities also fascinated the audience. Both troops spend the majority of their waking time foraging in the native vegetation, (29% for RE, 25% for PB), and in locomotion, (17% RE, 21% PB). The Rooi Els troop plays more (10% vs 4%) but grooms less (10% vs 18%). Two of the major differences between the troops are in the time they spent foraging in gardens (17% for RE and just 4% for PB), and foraging for human food in waste bins, garbage bags, compost heaps, houses (3% for RE and 7% for PB)."

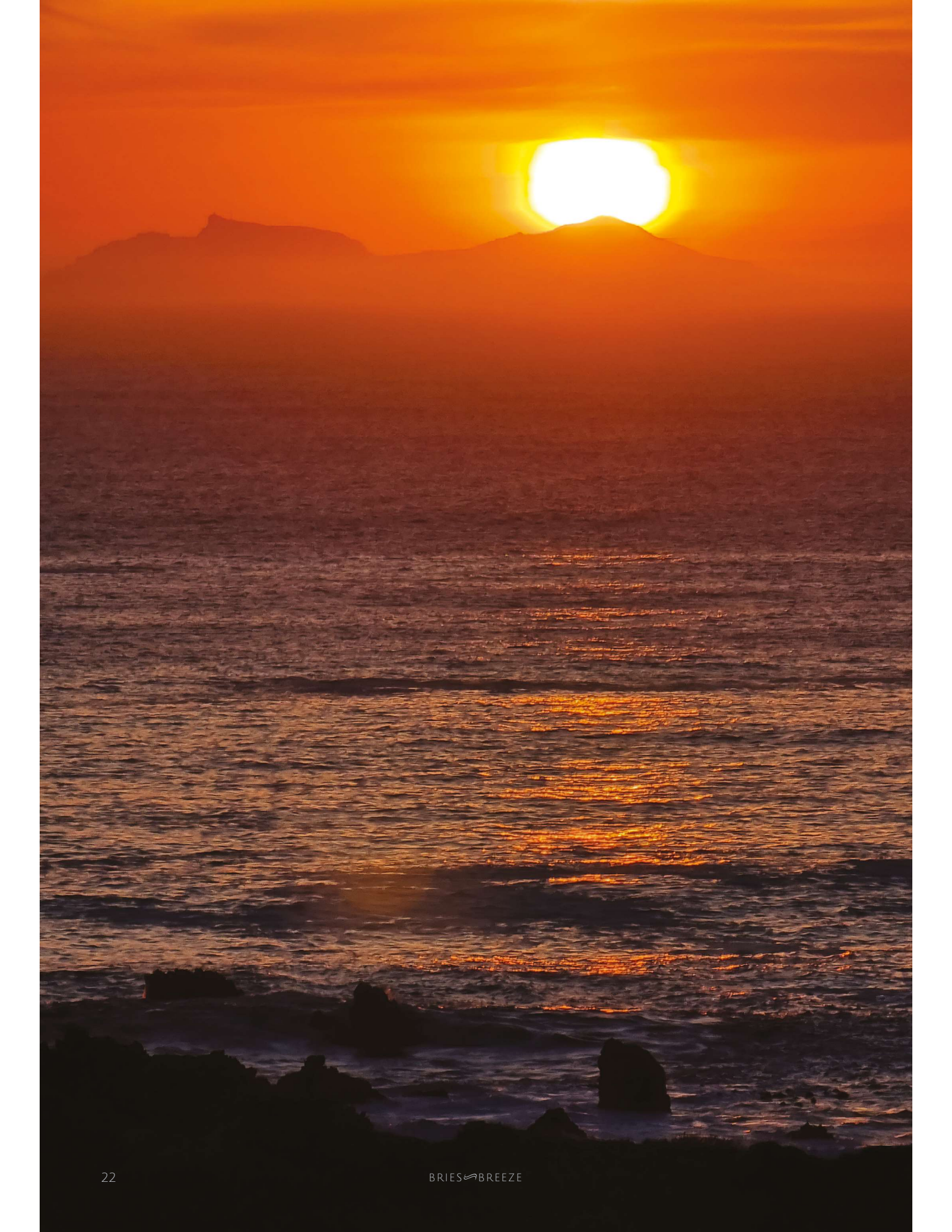
Chris Burlock, after consulting Jenni Trethowan of Baboon Matters, shared some insights on baboon monitors. Research had shown that monitors should ideally be deployed before the troop is entrenched in the area. Monitors are not the solution, but they could be part of the solution. A six-year baboon monitor programme only managed

to keep the troop out of specific areas 85% of the days. People who leave out garbage bags, have fruit trees or vegetable patches, or fail to secure their homes, negate any attempt to ensure unsuccessful raids. While very few monitors are typically needed, to be effective, the monitors have to be on the job every minute of the day without fail. If the monitors are not monitored and managed (rostered, organised, paid), the system will not work. And they would have to be paid, suitably equipped with weatherproof clothing, transport, etc. The manager also had to be remunerated. The fact is, while houses are raided, homeowners are happy to foot the bill, but as soon as the monitoring proves successful and raids are a seldom occurrence, suddenly no one wants to pay anymore.

It is generally well accepted, and the feather in Rooielsers' cap, that it is pointless to manage baboons. "After all,' as one person put it, 'you can't hope to manage baboons, but you can manage people...and it's people's thoughtlessness that created the problem in the first place!' This sentiment drew warm applause."

Jenni, who had been involved with baboon/human interactions for 16 years and run baboon monitoring teams for 9 years, is of the opinion

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ARCTIC TERNS

BY BRUCE RELLY

*Terns, in restless numbers
over sparkling autumn sea
careen, with flashes of white,
along hidden planes
and angles of the wind,
their urgent shrieks
more sound and energy
than seeming destination.*

*Will anyone know them
on the day of their departure?
Perhaps tomorrow
they will leave in quiet order
for the northern summer
to recover and breed,
sadly, emptying
for another season
the noisy geometry
of our sky.*



Bruce Relly

The Aves/Birds of Rooiels, as with all things connected with our environment, have changed over the 34 years of writing about them for the Breeze.

HELEN JONES

1 In 1987 our list began with 73 birds. It is now at 206. There were 6 endemic birds: Cape Sugarbird, Cape Rockjumper, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Ground Woodpecker, Cape Siskin, and Protea Canary. The latter has not been seen since 1998.


We've had some rare sights. These are birds that have been blown off-course, got tired, or were merely on holiday, like the Black-bellied Starling in November 1991, a dead, ringed Cape Vulture that washed up on the beach in February 1996, a Half-collared Kingfisher in April 2001, an African Golden Oriole in January 2001, the European Bee-eater in November 2010, the Mute Swan in January and February 2016, and a European Roller in 2017.

We were awoken to the calls of Bokmakieries, Burchell's Coucal, and the Cape Robin. Now, it is more likely to be the trusty Cape Robin-Chat, Cape Bulbul, Helmeted Guinea Fowl, or the Olive Thrush, and in certain areas an Orange-breasted Sunbird and Cape Sugarbird, or the enormous call of "a newbie" – the Hadedda Ibis.

There are those that we have lost: The Red-chested Flufftail, not seen since 1992; the Burchell's Coucal, not seen since 1995; the Fynbos Buttonquail (*Turnix hottentottus*) and the Protea Canary, not seen since 1998; and the Bokmakierie, not seen since 2007.

5 And those that arrived and are still with us: the Grey-headed Sparrow, the Olive Thrush, the Streaky-headed Seedeater, and the Fork-tailed Drongo.

The huge advantage of our village is the many different habitats – sea, mountain, fynbos, and then "fly-overs", either because they were misdirected by strong winds, or because the Sahara is getting bigger, so they stay in Southern Africa.

Wonderful, wonderful! Enjoy our birds and keep a monthly list even if you are only here briefly. The full bird list is on our website. Be on the lookout for outings during the Christmas and Easter periods to learn more about our birds. 



FLOWER POLLINATION BY BIRDS

Rather unusual and remarkable!

We all love watching our endemic orange-breasted sunbird probe the tube of an erica with its elegant bill, but this is a comparatively rare method of pollination. Fynbos plants, for example, are pollinated mostly by insects (eg bees and moths), while wind, birds and rodents are relatively minor, but still important, agents of pollen transport.

There are about 300 000 plant species on the planet and about 10 000 of these, or one in every 30, are pollinated by birds. These unusual bird-pollinated species are located mainly in the tropics and temperate southern hemisphere. The northern hemisphere has a few rare examples in temperate Asia but not a single one in Europe! The highest incidence of plant species pollinated by birds is in SW Australia,

where they make up about 15% of the native flora. While we all recognize sunbirds and sugarbirds as pollinators, these are just some of the bird groups worldwide that regularly feed on nectar, and some are more specialized than others. The most specialized are Hummingbirds (340 spp in the Americas), Sunbirds (140 spp in Asia and Africa), honeycreepers (15 spp in Hawaii) and just two Sugarbirds – our very own Cape and Gurney's. Australia has none of these but has the less specialized honeyeaters and lorikeets. Locally, we are familiar with less specialized white-eyes, but there are hundreds of other opportunistic nectarivorous bird species and these under-appreciated opportunists sometimes transfer pollen between flowers better than do the specialists.



Steve Johnson



Steve Johnson

How do they do it?

Most birds submerge their bill in the fluid reservoir and enclose a mouthful – just like a quadruped. However, nectar feeders use their tongue to collect the fluid and then must transfer it through the bill into the throat.

Bills: the specialists have slender bills which are straight if they hover (hummingbird) and curved if they perch (eg: our sunbirds and sugarbirds), because they feed in an arc-like motion. The bill guides the tongue and allows deep access to the nectar chamber.

Tongues: these are loooong, with various specialized tips, eg semi-tubular, bifid, fray-tipped and fimbriated (think thick pile shaggy carpet), to increase surface area for contact with nectar. These features allow the tongues to penetrate deep, suck hard or lick fast and utilize surface tension. The technical terms for the modes of feeding by



specialists are evocative, so use your imagination, and include hermetic suction, fluid trapping, elastic filling, capillary filling, cohesive pulling, hydraulic displacement etc.

Intestines: If you only consume sugar, you don't need a complicated gut like a carrion-eating vulture which has a stomach/gizzard, liver, pancreas, small intestine, colon and rectum! So, the sugar specialists have only a short small-intestine but which is rich in an enzyme for hydrolysing sucrose. Please don't put glucose in your sunbird feeder bottle.

How does the flower attract the bird?

They tend to be large, red, tubular, with large volumes of nectar. This is sufficiently attractive, so they don't expend unnecessary energy on developing a scent (don't bother sniffing an erica or a protea). But the variety is endless: eg different colours, short open tubes (eg in some aloes) that accommodate the thick bills of non-specialists. Besides being simply conspicuous, the red colour may also be an anti-bee trait, as bees are red colour-blind. The nectar is highly concentrated and low volume sucrose for the specialists, but dilute, high volume, less viscous simple sugars for the generalists like bulbuls, parrots and weavers whose intestines are less enzyme rich.

Why does the plant bother with birds?

Well, birds provide several advantages over other agents of pollination, eg they are active in the cold so are suitable for high altitude and winter flowers. They fly, thus transferring their genes long distances generating the high gene diversity noted in these plants. Bees deliberately brush the pollen off themselves (grooming), while birds don't.

So what can we do?

Look after our birds to avoid what happened in some Pacific islands and areas of New Zealand where many flower visiting birds are already extinct. Experiments have shown that seed set drops near to zero when birds are excluded from these unique flowers. Introduced bees steal the honey early in the morning leaving insufficient for the birds arriving later. Finally, we can simply dedicate some slow-time to observing and appreciating our beautiful and unique nectivores and their chosen flower.

BOB BAIGRIE

Acknowledgement: Prof Steve Johnson (UKZN) and Dr David Cuban (Univ Washington) kindly explained aspects of bird pollination to me in the field and have given permission for me to source this article from their excellent published work.

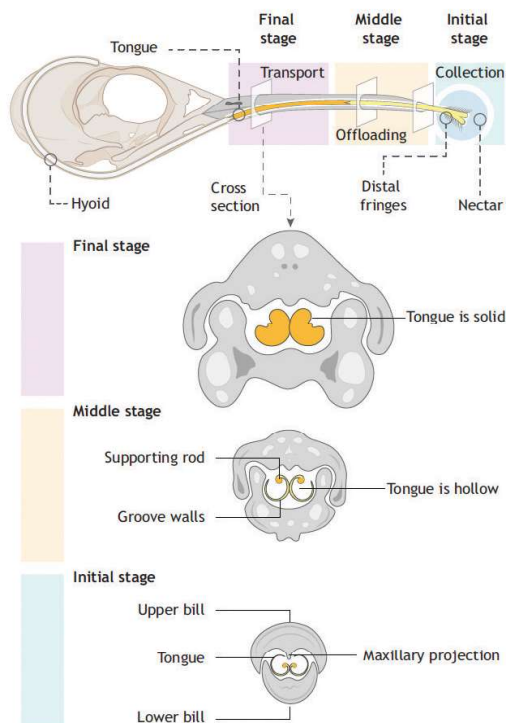


Diagram of a humming-bird skull and feeding apparatus for each stage of the nectar transfer. Note how the bill and tongue changes along the length of the bill.



Bob Baigrie

Safety starts with each of us



MARK BUTLER

The past year has been a tale of two halves. In the first half of the year, the very low crime environment in Rooiels over the past five years was maintained. The second half of the year rudely reminded us that nothing can be taken for granted and that what has worked to date may need to be enhanced and improved to cope with the changing crime dynamics that Rooiels experienced from July onwards. At the time of writing, there have been 29 crime incidents in Rooiels during this year with most of them happening since the start of the crime spike in July. Many of the incidents took place despite an increased security presence in Rooiels with SAPS, the Security service provider, and the RESA patrol group stepping up surveillance. 26 of the crime incidents took place in houses, mostly occupied, that did not have an alarm on. This, unfortunately, enabled the perpetrators to break in unnoticed. The method of entry was the same in almost every incident and involved the removal of a window to gain access. There were also two home invasions and, fortunately, only minor injuries were reported. The crime spike seems to have abated for now, but we cannot afford to be complacent, and every effort must be made to make it more difficult for any would-be intruders.

The key to this is for all of us to take greater responsibility for the security of our homes by securing properties as far as possible and making more effective use of alarm systems as the first line of defence. RESA has recognised that the overall security strategy for the village needs to be enhanced and this is in process. The core security strategies that have served Rooiels so well are still valid, but some enhancement and improvements are needed. There is, however, nothing better than a community that looks out for each other and has an acute awareness of any activity or behaviour in the village that is



unusual. Our neighbouring villages have been living with much higher crime levels than that of Rooiels. They, too, have now improved their community-based security initiatives. Going forward there should be more security-based interaction with our neighbouring villages.


The finances of RESA have remained sound through the past year which is a measure of the support that RESA enjoys from most of the village. However, it would be so much better if even more homeowners and residents were part of RESA as that would provide an even stronger financial platform to do more to make Rooiels a safer place for all. Part of the strategy review is a significant enhancement of the CCTV camera system in the village and having key camera positions monitored offsite by a professional security operation and/or law enforcement. This could be supplemented by neighbourhood camera groups as increased surveillance and awareness will assist in deterring crime. The financial support received so far towards this costly enhancement has been quite significant and we sincerely thank all who have contributed funds towards this objective. We also appeal to any others who would like to be part of this project to do so. It was the generosity of the village that got RESA to where it is, and it is so gratifying to see that the same spirit of support prevails.

This is my last report for RESA as I have decided that after more than seven years as chairperson, and an even longer involvement, it is time for new energy and ideas. I would like to see RESA remain an important mechanism for Rooiels. I am sure it can become an even more effective service to the community and that Rooiels can and will be an example of how a community initiative such as RESA makes a difference in the lives of all that live in Rooiels and our visitors. Sadly, the government is




failing in its mandate to provide adequate policing services, which requires community-based initiatives such as RESA to make Rooiels a safer place for all.

I also want to thank the incredibly dedicated patrol group for what they do for Rooiels by giving their time in the interests of all in the village. Thank you to the RESA Ops Comm for all the hard work they put in for the village and in particular Peter Koning for the amazing effort that he puts in looking after the patrol group, block watch and radio group. Thank you, also, to Hilgard Muller, Ernst Thompson, Willie Boltmann, and Diarmuid Baigrie for their contributions to the RESA efforts. It is encouraging that there are additional recently co-opted members involved in charting the path forward for RESA and I thank them all for their contributions.

Thank you all for allowing me to have served as RESA Chairperson for the past seven years. It has been a privilege and I know that RESA will grow under the leadership of the new Ops Comm members. 

'n REIS VAN DROOM NA WERKLIKHEID

Die Rooiels Veiligheidsvereniging (RESA), in sy huidige vorm, funksioneer al meer as ses jaar, maar sy oorsprong strek terug na 2014. As 'n entiteit bestaan dit al net meer as agt jaar. Baie Rooielsers sal onthou van die verskeie pogings wat aangewend is om die sekuriteitsreaksiedienste in Rooiels oor baie jare te verbeter. Ondanks die aansienlike pogings wat verskeie Rooielsers aangewend het, het 'n veiligheidsreaksiediens in Rooiels 'n ontwykende doelwit gebly. Diarmuid Baigrie het my op sy oortuigende wyse verseker dat dit gedoen kan word en dit het gelei tot my betrokkeheid by die stigting van RESA. Dit was in sekere opsigte 'n geloofsprong aangesien dit bloot 'n konsep was en die instelling van 'n sekuriteitsreaksiediens vir Rooiels byna onbereikbaar voorgekom het. Die RESA nie-winsgewende maatskappy is geregistreer en ondersteuning vir die stigting van RESA as 'n Rooiels-gemeenskapsorganisasie het begin. Die sleutel hiertoe was die betrokkeheid van jarelange Rooiels-gemeenskapslede en die aanvanklike RESA-komitee het bestaan uit Diarmuid, Graham McClelland, Dick Lockley, Duncan Hiles, Ernst Thompson en Wessie van der Westhuisen. Dit het toe uitgebrei om Peter Koning, Hilgard Muller en Willie Boltmann in te sluit. Die aanvanklike bedrywighede van RESA is befonds deur skenkings uit die gemeenskap en die finansiële ondersteuning van die Rooiels Bootklub wat vir die huur van die kantoor betaal het terwyl die res van die infrastruktuur opgerig is. Sonder hierdie ondersteuning sou dit nie moontlik gewees het om die RESA-projek te begin nie. Terselfdertyd is onderhandelinge met sekuriteitsdiensverskaffers begin om 'n reaksiediens in Rooiels te vestig. Aanvanklik het dit gebyk dat dit finansiële nie moontlik sou wees nie, maar deursettingsvermoë het gelei tot 'n oplossing waardeur dit haalbaar was om sewe nagte per week 'n reaksiediens in Rooiels te bekom. In 2016 het RESA ten volle operasioneel geword. Dit was 'n jaar waarin Rooiels 'n beduidende toename in misdaad gehad het met sowat 46 misdaadvoorvalle, waaronder een wat tragies gelei het tot die dood van 'n inwoner ná 'n aanranding.

Die Rooiels-gemeenskap het RESA 'n oorweldigende mandaat gegee om die fasiliteerder van veiligheid in die dorp te wees na aanleiding van wat gebeur het. As gevolg hiervan is die Rooiels-gebaseerde sekuriteitsreaksiediens gestig, die kamerastelsel geïnstalleer, RESA het 'n geregistreerde buurtwag geword, die radiostelsel is gelisensieer en geïnstalleer, die patrolliegroep is gestig en die sekuriteit Block Watch WhatsApp-groep is gestig. Dit alles is moontlik gemaak deur die vrygewigheid van die lede van die gemeenskap wat bygedra het tot die Borg se fonds asook die grootste deel van die gemeenskap wat opbetaalde RESA-lede geword het. RESA was nou 'n lewensvatbare en volhoubare entiteit. As gevolg van al hierdie aksies en met die ondersteuning en deelname van die gemeenskap, het misdaadvlakke in Rooiels dramaties gedaal. Oor die volgende paar jaar het Rooiels 'n byna misdaadvrye dorpie geword, anders as die buurdorpe. Die Covid-19-pandemie het 'n positiewe bydrae gelewer deurdat beweging erg beperk is, maar selfs ná die inperkingsstyd het misdaad in Rooiels baie laag gebly. Die RESA-mandaat om van Rooiels 'n veiliger plek vir almal te maak, is bereik. Daar was altyd kommer dat dit kan verander en ongelukkig was daar vanaf Julie vanjaar 'n toename in misdaad in Rooiels met 'n beduidende aantal huisbrake. Dit is nie naastenby die vlak van misdaad wat in 2016 ervaar is nie, maar steeds van groot kommer. 

continued from page 21

that baboons are not naturally afraid of humans and would happily walk amongst us as they would walk amongst Impala, Zebra, other non-predatory animals. She believes that baboons who choose to sit close to humans are displaying normal inquisitive and friendly behaviour. People who feed baboons (even by accident – through feeding of birds and other animals and when baboons have accessed food in their houses) are teaching baboons to associate humans with food!

People who come close to baboons without feeding them are teaching the baboons that people do not necessarily mean food.

Rooiels troop (2005)

How we spend our time:

- ★ 29% foraging in native vegetation
- ★ 17% foraging in gardens
- ★ 17% moving from one place to the next
- ★ 12% resting
- ★ 10% playing
- ★ 10% grooming
- ★ 3% eating human food from bins/homes
- ★ 2% mating, self-grooming and defending troop from other males

Like so many other times, the first dawn of 2006 was witnessed by Rooielsers from the top of Klein Hangklip.

Brent Ruthven, who owns the property at the second entrance on your right as you leave Rooiels towards Pringle Bay, had to restrict access across his property towards Klein Hangklip because people were veering off the path, damaging or removing plants, and for the sake of security. We are all aware of the need to remain vigilant and it is sensible to know who might be accessing your property. Brent has kindly extended an invitation for Rooielsers to continue to use the access path, but to first call him to arrange a time. He can be reached on 060 868 7167.

While REC – now three years strong – has gained solid support, the membership of RERA had dwindled to an all-time low of 12%. It was clearly telling where the community perceives it should invest its energies. The time had come to reflect and consider whether RERA should continue in its present form, merge with the Rooiels Conservancy (REC), or disband. stalwarts such as Rob Fryer, Mike Harrison, and Bruce Rely were at the helm of RERA at the time and Rob invites the community to consider the following:

The thinking behind the formation of the Rooiels 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 issues 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 the other interested or affected party and be rejected or undermined. Rooiels 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 Rooiels community, can the people-hungry multi-organisation structure be maintained with few prepared to take an active role?

There are numerous interrelated issues that affect Rooiels ratepayers upon which a strong, credible representative needs to make a stand and actively lobby decision-makers. How do you, the ratepayer, want this representation to be effected?

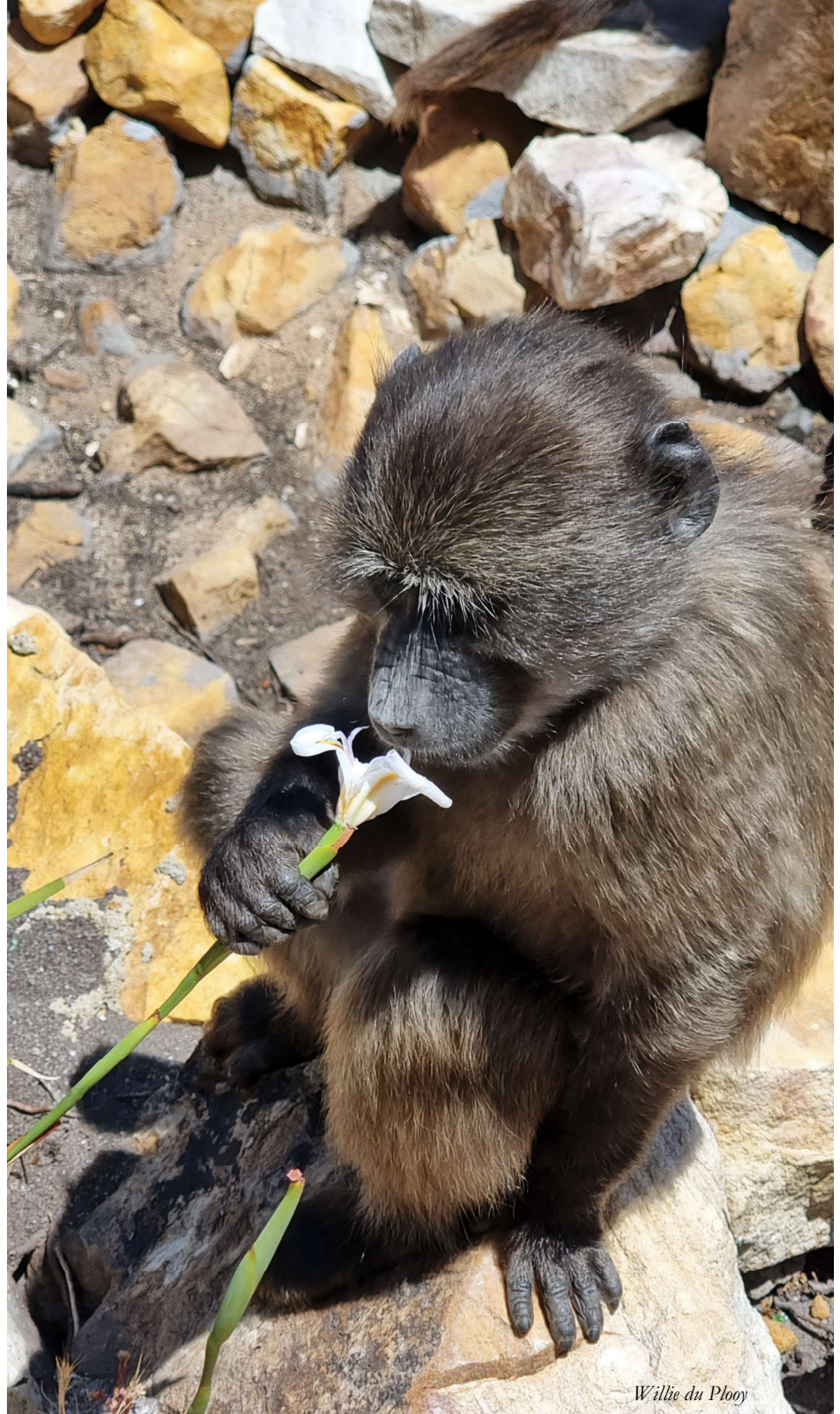
The April 2006 edition celebrated the keen gardeners who had nurtured the village entrance gardens over the years since being lovingly created by Hettie Claassens. That year she and Dine van Zyl handed over to Janette Yates and Jill Lockley, both keen fynbos experts. Janette was the convener of the Kirstenbosch plant sale (where Jill also helped out) and Jill was a tour guide on Table Mountain. Lynn Harris and Koos Smit were thanked for their contribution to the Protea Planting Plan to rehabilitate degraded urban areas. The aim was to plant attractive indigenous proteas, leucodendron, and leucospermums indigenous to this area.

Later that year the Rooiels Conservancy logo was unveiled at the village entrance. Says Hettie: "The Conservation 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." Villagers also celebrated 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, the “Adobt-a-Beach” initiative, a litter clean-up project that would participate in BirdLife Africa’s pioneering CleanMarine programme, and the “War on Weeds” programme to wipe out selected alien weeds from their properties and on their walks.

Whether it is Storm Lewis (aged 9), Dick Lockley with his chainsaw, Anuta Scholtz, or Jill Lockley and Mary Comrie enjoying the camaraderie and sense of community at the hacks or beach clean-ups, Rooielsers have been working hard to prevent us – as Hettie Claassens points out – from living in a Rooikrans forest. She continues (translated from Afrikaans): “The conservancy offers our people the opportunity to give something back to the place that gives us so much. The Conservancy works like a puzzle with many pieces. If each of us is only responsible for applying Conservancy guidelines to our own piece, we can all make a significant contribution to the bigger picture. It is said that there are three myths that maintain man's destructive status quo, namely: 'there is enough space', 'there is enough time', and 'it's someone else's job'. If we work together in Rooiels we can use the space and the time we have been given to not only preserve nature, but also to improve our own quality of life and pleasure.”

In 2007, Izak Smit, the new chairperson of RERA, firmly re-established the purpose of RERA as a body of ratepayers that would drive their goals in line with the Rooiels Vision. After clarifying roles and responsibilities, RERA, the Conservancy, and other groups in Rooiels could now “work towards building community and sharing in the common dream we are building here at Rooiels. It also implies highlighting key values



—Willie du Plooy

for the community and setting a credo such as ‘caring together today for tomorrow’. This credo should say who we are and how we would strive to fulfil our Vision. Based on such an approach, all organisations and groups will continue to work together.” It is sadly also the year in which Rooiels bid farewell to Dennis Cowen, “a man who, when needed, gave his all to the Rooi Els community. His efforts to preserve the rural character of Rooi Els are a matter of record ... he was pragmatic and recognised that electrification had to come.... Without Denis, the fight for the preservation of our water source would very likely have had a vastly different outcome.”

At the end of 2007, Estelle bid farewell to the Breeze, after five years and fourteen editions. She reminded us that...

...the Breeze is one way to preserve the many stories that connect us to each other and to this place. It allows us to see Rooiels through each other's eyes.

RERA chairman, Izak Smit, said: "While being extremely privileged to stay in Rooi Els, in relative comfort, with little crime; a matter close to my heart is that we distinguish ourselves as a caring community in the real sense of the word. Having received so much ourselves, to give is a privilege." Eldie wrote about the honorary membership bestowed on Professor Kay de Villiers (RERA committee from 1976 to 1990). During a conversation with a patient (Kay was a neurosurgeon), he learnt that the Rooiels school terrain would be auctioned off as residential erven. He promptly sprung into action and initiated a process that resulted in the area becoming the Rooiels Nature Reserve (the area between Study Road and the ocean). He also drove the initiative that saw the road reserves restored from rooikrans forests to fynbos. He and Eldie also reminisced about how RERA had prevented the R44 from going right through Rooiels. Did you know that the Eskom power reticulation for Rooiels is under the roads, and not under the road reserves? Sadly, the two expressed concern that conservation in Rooiels is not firm enough, although it does help with environmental awareness. They also recalled the time when a less-than-determined committee almost allowed the Municipality to cut the confetti bushes (coleonema) in the reserve for medicinal purposes.

Rooiels got fun signage to ensure people keep to our 20 km/h speed limit and look out for wildlife on the roads. The first wine

auction almost didn't take place. Izak and Hanna had to scramble to obtain the necessary permits to comply with a new liquor law that was implemented after all the arrangements had already been made. Short of purchasing stocks of sardine tins (each tin would represent a specific bottle of wine), their efforts paid off and they received permission from the liquor board. The funds were used, among other things, to upgrade the footpaths in the nature reserve. Joan Modinger reiterates that we are privileged and proud to live in this beautiful environment. "Here we find the highest number of plant species per square kilometre in the world. However, biodiversity does not only imply plant species, it also includes animals, birds, reptiles, insects, etc. which all live in a relationship to the indigenous plants. There is a co-dependency between plants, the creepy-crawlies, and those on wings here in Rooi Els." She says villagers can help by "taking pride in protecting the flora of our unique and beautiful village; planting only indigenous plant species; making sure your plot is free of rooikrans, Manatoka, Port Jackson, and alien grasses; remembering that a stitch in time saves nine – the sooner the aliens are removed, the less it will cost and the less damage is done; talking to your neighbours to ensure that your plot and other neighbouring areas are not invaded as a result of seed pollution from invasive alien plants coming from your own or your neighbours land; and joining the Rooi Els hack group."

In 2008, the chairperson reminded villagers that "[t]he RERA constitution states that its goals are to promote the interest of the ratepayers of Rooi-Els, by keeping close contact with governing authorities and protecting the Rooi-Els Vision.... Remember, how we approach matters in this magical place depends on you and the choices you make. After all, what we

have here is an oyster that belongs to all of us!"

RERA focused on many aspects that year, among others, the registration of the nature reserves and raising the importance of rezoning further spaces as public reserves, a focus on reducing light pollution, raising awareness of the 20 km/h speed limit in the village, a renewed focus on safety and security, the upgrade of the CBD where a waste area used to be located, and a system to monitor building activities and a plan to gain insight into building plans and rezoning applications.

The mandate from Rooielsers remained clear: we must vigorously uphold the UN Environmental Protection Principles as adopted in the Spatial Development Framework and we must protect the renewed support (as shown through increased membership) for the RERA Vision "that we all share, [and that] makes it easier to set a course, one that has to some degree been given direction to by fellow Rooielsers ... over the years."

In 2008 Griet Odendaal, the new editor of the Breeze, tells us that she often hears the words "It's just another ordinary miracle today" from a song while she takes her morning walk. She also wrote about a spate of burglaries and the RERA Security Portfolio shared some initiatives and reminded people that homes without activated alarms are the primary target. So much has stayed the same, it seems. Congratulations streamed in for REC, then five years old, winning



the 2008 Mayor's Environmental Award. The funds would be used for more conservation initiatives within the village. The Conservancy, in turn, celebrated being 130 paid-up members strong and "look(ed) forward to welcoming additional members in 2009 as more people realise that they don't want Rooi Els to become another Strand ... There's nothing to stop people from building walls around their properties or replacing all their fynbos with paving or kikuyu lawns. The only way we can prevent Rooi Els from becoming like the walled and un-neighbourly neighbourhoods most of us have escaped from, is if Rooi Els property owners themselves make that decision! Some will ... and some won't. The Conservancy's hope is that an ever-growing number will make the decision to preserve as much of the natural beauty of Rooi Els as possible. Some because it provides them with joy ... others because it has ensured their property value keeps climbing due to the rarity of such a beautiful place."

The new Vodacom 3G tower arrived and Evette Weyers got outwitted by a baboon for the first time in six years. She tells how she somehow forgot to lock the door while going for a walk, only to find two baboons in the house on her return. She walked up to the Alpha male on the kitchen counter and told him no uncertain terms to leave, but he was not open to persuasion. After locking away the dogs, she whacked him on the shoulder with a plastic container.

Bries . Breeze

SOUTH-EASTER EDITION 2009

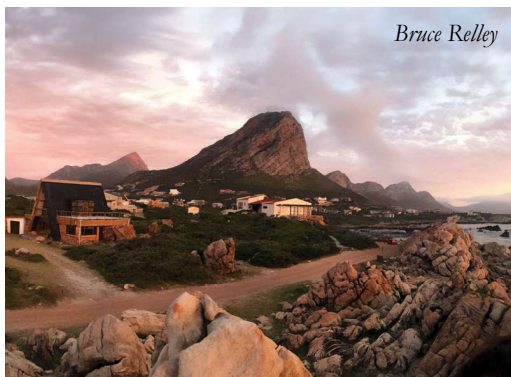
"Still munching he looked over his shoulder at me, only a little offended ... He was, after all, in a vegetarian's house filled with fresh and dried fruit, ripe avos, lots of seeds and nuts ... No way was he going to be shooed out of paradise! ... My dogs and I licked our wounded pride and sharpened our wits and teeth, ready for the next onslaught, which we knew would come. Sure enough, 7:15 the next morning, Alpha was back with total determination. But we were prepared and outwitted him this round. Now that he knows that paradise (our house) is not impenetrable he will try again, several times. But we are back in the game."

Gerard declared that Rooiels was making him sick, more specifically, that he was suffering from solastalgia, which is when individuals are directly involved in, or directly experience, the transformation of a loved environment. Gerard and Anuta have travelled to many far and weird and wonderful places and even lived abroad for long periods but consider Rooiels their home. He became aware of his illness when he discovered that a milkwood tree had been stolen from a road verge, about the same time that the entrance to the slipway was being built. He says that many years ago, Professor Tony Hall warned Rooiels against 'gradualism', sugar-coated as progress, advancement, and improvement. "Our dust roads are disappearing and being replaced by characterless brick paving, the footprints of houses are getting bigger, front-end loaders are being sent in to flatten properties indiscriminately, light pollution has taken away the magical starry

night, a kikuyu lawn is being planted next to one of our nature reserves ... Solstalgia exists when there is recognition that the place where one resides that one loves (in our case, Rooiels) is under assault – the assault of misplaced owners on the quality of life of those who bought into Rooiels for what it was and not what they wanted it to become. Under assault of people who didn't take the time to understand that you don't have to change everything and that their drive for progress and development isn't the Rooiels way."

In 2010 the Verreux's Eagle male suffered an injury and had to be euthanised. The pair was half-way through rearing a chick, who also fell from the nest and was living on a cliff at this stage. The Black Eagle Project at the Percy Fitts-Patrick Institute for African Ornithology at UCT and the Rooiels Conservancy worked on supplementing the female's attempt at feeding herself and her chick. Closer to home, another spike in crime was reported and this time criminals didn't care if homes were alarmed or occupied at the time. A total of 19 gas bottles were stolen, and crowbars seemed to be the tool of choice. The Rooi Els Community Watch shared news of increased day and night patrols, quotations for surveillance cameras, radios, and strong torches, but villagers were reminded to also remain fire wise as "fire still poses a far greater risk than burglars do".

In the second year of her third stint (1994, 2004, 2009-2013) as chairperson, Julia Aalbers talked about RERA's work on, among other things, the built environment, the security situation, and the Integrated Coastal Management Act with its increased demands



Bruce Relley

on landowners within 100 meters of the highwater mark. She also highlighted the requirements for close relations with the Kleinmond Community Policing Forum. Huge concern was expressed about the “avalanche of very large homes on the seashore and elsewhere in Rooi Els. These ‘mega-home(s)’ on a zoned single-residential plot appear to be multi-dwellings because of their size and the extent of their facilities. They jut out over the landscape and as such are out-of-place and out-of-keeping with the natural environment.... On the basis of the above, we ... representing our members in a declared Conservancy Village, surrounded by an International Biosphere, are conscious of the fact that we need to use all legal means to encourage Rooi-ers to keep their human footprint as light as possible.... The building portfolio of RERA aimed to ensure the preservation of Rooi Els with the minimum impact on the area.”

RERA reported a membership count of 96 members and a bank balance of R10 800 and a plea for additional support was expressed. “Why? To be able to represent as many property owners as possible. What for? You cannot even begin to imagine the range of matters we deal with on behalf of the community! From baboons to burglars; roads to regulations; fire to fynbos; reserves to rooikrans; houses to dogs; poachers to beaches. Why two organisations? To cover all bases. RERA deals with the running of the village and REC focuses on nature conservation. We work together in your interest.”

The Overstrand Municipality proposed a Zoning Scheme that intended to allow second dwellings as a Residential 1 right with the intention to promote densification while limiting urban sprawl. The three villages (Rooiels, Pringle Bay, and Betty’s Bay) requested Overlays which would define special regulations for these villages. On another note, an unfortunate

oversight (the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development did not do a site visit), erf 52 was granted permission to cover 58% of the erf. “This is the first time this additional limitation to the 50% building coverage has been made applicable in Rooi Els ... it is regretted ... the overall process has offered Rooi Els additional environmental protection”, following additional requirements to re-vegetate the area between the property and the highwater mark with locally indigenous coastal fynbos and that no deviations from the current plans will be allowed.

After serving “a stimulating five years” on the Rooiels Conservancy, Dick Lockley announced that he would no longer serve on the committee and provided a comprehensive report of their work in the past year. The Nature Reserve is a wetland and as such, a boardwalk was necessary to traverse it during the wet months. Werner Mödinger spurred people on to join the monthly hacks and expressed concern about some owners who “do not give us permission to remove [alien vegetation]” from their plots.



In 2012 Griet caught a snake. Literally. It fell into her arms as she opened her front door. A boomslang that had been living around the house, was starting to become a nuisance and, sadly, had to be relocated. A leopard was seen in broad daylight on the gravel road between Rooiels and Pringle Bay. Using the photographs, the leopard was identified as Scott. At the time, this leopard was part of five leopards in the Kogelberg area – three females and two males. George Rijke’s baboon statue was stolen. “For me that baboon had huge sentimental value as it was created by my father. He loved his art. And it was an icon of Rooi Els. And it brought humour as many dogs were petrified of it.” Sadly, no one could find a picture of it to initiate a search. On another note, the Rooiels Ladies Club invited newbies to join to learn about where others’ hardships could be relieved and to take care of the monthly “Hack Teas”, among other things, of course.

The protection of the Coastal Zone, which may stretch as far into the village as the environs of Lovers Walk, became a focal point in 2012. Initiatives included the deproclamation of the remaining two portions of Arctotis Road and the closure of all public access across the dunes between Rocklands Road and the slipway. This included the strengthening and slight rerouting of the Peninsula walk around erf 115 to the beach from the end of Rocklands Road. RERA also engaged the services of Coastec to provide expert input in the demarcation of coastal setback lines required in terms of the Coastal Management Act.

The removal of the public waste transfer station was announced. There was also a plea to villagers not to use tractors and other heavy machinery to reduce combustible materials on their properties. Removing dead wood, alien vegetation, and the thinning of excess growth should be sufficient, with a reminder that plant material must be removed and taken to an approved waste disposal site. An overgrown, apparently fire-risk plot was likely to result in the owner receiving a notice to clear the whole plot to 50 cm.

We learned that new by-laws required homeowners to obtain baboon-proof bins and that the rubbish trailer at the village entrance would be removed. A contribution by Professor André Rabie confirmed that lights

“that are left burning will hardly deter criminals. Rather, they advertise that the occupants are scared [or not at home] or that the house contains valuable items ... Outside lights that are left to burn all night are inconsiderate to one’s neighbour, constitute a contravention of a municipal regulation, and represent wasteful consumption of energy. Approximately 40% of such light is scattered into the atmosphere outside its target area, where it serves no useful purpose ... Artificial lighting impairs the natural atmosphere and tranquillity of the night, thereby giving rise to irritation and stress, not unlike the effect of noise. Light pollution is a menace to both professionals and amateur astronomers. Moreover, too much night light can affect certain animals by, for instance, creating an imbalance in predation conditions. It also leads to the destruction of useful insects.”

He encouraged us to rather use lights that point downwards and are activated by motion sensors.

Jo and Margaret Hensen, the owners of the village shop for 22

years, and who also lived above the shop, packed up to join their children in Australia. About the shop: “Every village needs a shop. Not just any shop, but somewhere you can find just about anything you want! The Rooiels Village shop is just such a place.”

In 2013 Geoff Harris opened a can of worms. No wait, he doesn’t. He unveils a pile of – oh wait, I can’t write that. He investigates sewerage. “When Rooiels was planned ... the only option for human waste was the so-called septic tank (soakaway) system ... a few years ago, we were advised that an Overstrand Municipal (OM) by-law required that all new buildings had to have conservancy tanks ... have to be emptied by a tanker ... (‘Honeysuckers’, ‘Smellie Nellie’, or ‘Yesterday’s Meals on Wheels’).” This brought on fears of huge fleets of tankers carting human waste to a specific point as a video of the Dubai tanker queues emerged. After sharing this video with the municipality, they responded that, at that time, all legislation allows for the use of septic tanks and the associated French drains subject to certain

conditions and approval by the municipality.

This edition also contains an extensive report on the then-resident leopard, BM12 (Boland Male #12) aka Scott. The first identifiable photo of Scott was taken in 2011, and in 2013 he was captured and collared. Days after being collared, he caught a porcupine on camera at the cave, seemingly unaffected by the collar – in a later edition of the Breeze, we learn that this photo, which was entered into the National Camera Trap photographic competition did not win a prize but achieved a “Highly Commended”. And two months later, new photo evidence of a new unknown leopard in the area. On a sadder note (yes, again), the male Black Eagle had to be euthanised after it was found with a broken wing, possibly the result of flying into power lines. The Black Eagle Project temporarily augmented the chick and female’s diets by putting out food items, such as roadkill picked up near Rooiels. The Drummond Arms changed hands and two lesser flamingos were spotted on the beach.

continued on page 38

Izak Smit





PETER KÖNING

Rooiels kon kwalik die gevolge van verskeie gebeure in 2022 vryspring. Ná maande van Covid-19-geïnduseerde inperkings moes mense hul lewensbeskouing heroorweeg. Die politieke onrus, gepaardgaande met wydverspreide onluste en plundering in Kwazulu-Natal, was 'n sterk herinnering aan die desperaatheid van die verarmde groepe in die samelewing. Met die wêreld wat skarrel om hul ekonomieë weer aan die gang te kry na COVID, sukkel Suid-Afrika steeds met stygende inflasie en 'n effektiewe werkloosheidsyfer van ongeveer 34%. Toe het die begin van die Russiese-Oekraïens oorlog verdere houe toegedien, aangesien die brandstofpryskrisis verdere gevolge meegebring het namate die lewenskoste buite beheer bly raak het. So 'n perfekte storm lei onvermydelik tot 'n toename in misdaadstatistieke en ongelukkig is Rooiels nie gespaar nie. Na 'n relatief misdaadvrye tydperk van vyf jaar was 3 Julie 2022 die begin van 'n ongelukkige misdaadvlaag wat etlike maande by die dorp sou spook.

Na 'n aanvanklike stadige toestroming van betroubare inligting, kon ons vasstel dat daar drie verskillende modus operandi, tydraamwerke, en die beskrywings van items was wat geteiken is. Vroeë, noukeurige verslagdoening sou diegene bevoordeel het wat hierdie inbrake moes ondersoek,

in plaas daarvan om op terugvoer op sosiale media te vertrou, soms dae ná die gebeurtenis. Hoewel 'n mens 'n moontlike toename in misdaad moes verwag het, het die skielike toename steeds die dorp verras. Nietemin het verslae aan RESA en die opnames van private kringtelevisiebeeldmateriaal, asook verdere waarnemings, goeie insig verskaf oor waarmee ons te doen het.

Ons het 29 inbrake of pogings tot inbrake gehad. In 24 gevalle was die huisalarms nie geaktiveer nie, en 'n verdere twee het nie alarms geïnstalleer gehad nie. In vier gevalle was die alarms wel geaktiveer. Die gevalle van huisbetredings terwyl eienaars teenwoordig en wakker is, is van besondere kommer.

Een groep, wat ons glo 'n huis in Rooiels bewoon het, het gefokus op die verwydering van vensterruite (93% van die gevalle) of gedwonge toegang deur die breek van houtvensterrame en skuifdeurslotte. Hulle het gemik vir skootrekenaars, ander mobiele toestelle, juweliersware en geld, en was die bedrywigste buite die gewone patrolleringsgleuwe.

'n Tweede groep blyk 'n meer aggressiewe benadering te hê en het die inwoners vasgebind. Hulle het ook op ander items gefokus en het geen agting vir die patrolleringsgleuwe gehad nie.

Ons glo dat 'n ander groep vanaf 'n konstruksieterrein geopereer het en groter items, soos televisiestelle en elektroniese goedere, meestal buite die gewone patrolleringsgleuwe geneem het.

Die paar patroleerders het met behulp van twee bykomende ASK-patrolliemotors hul patrollies verhoog en tye lukraak gewissel. Dit het gelei tot 'n daling in inbrake vir 'n tydperk van 14 dae. Die oomblik toe ons gerus raak, het nog 'n inbraak twee dae later plaasgevind.

Dit beklemtoon die belangrikheid van meer gereelde hoë sigbaarheid patrolling op onvoorspelbare tye, benewens die huiseienaars se eie veiligheidsmaatreëls.

Dit is noodsaaklik dat die Rooiels-gemeenskap kennis neem van waarskuwings. Dit is van kardinale belang dat tuisalarmstelsels snags geaktiveer word. Alhoewel bewegingsmonitering rondom die huis 'n probleem kan wees terwyl die huis bedags leeg staan (as gevolg van die dierelewe), bly dit 'n belangrike vroeë waarskuwingstelsel terwyl die huis beset is.

Ons kan baat vind by hoëdefinisie CCTV kameras (nie toesigkameras nie) wat vir lang tydperke gemonitor word, veral van vroeë tot vroegoggend. Ons patrolliegroep het dringend bykomende patroleerders nodig wat lukraak en later ure kan patroleer. Ons glo dat vroeë patrolling die inbrake tot later verskuif het. Ons doen 'n beroep op meer, en veral jonger vrywilligers om hulself beskikbaar te stel vir hierdie belangrike diens.

Dit behoort duidelik te wees dat misdaad onvermydelik is en dat ons die bestaande sekuriteitsmaatskappye en wetstoepassers moet bystaan om dit moeiliker te maak vir misdadigers om ons dorp te teiken.

Neem asseblief die nodige stappe om jou huis te beveilig deur 'n alarmstelsel te installeer wat bewegingsmonitering insluit vir vroeë waarskuwing (wanneer jy by die huis is). Installeer diefstaling of ander toegangsversperrings op kwesbare vensters en deure. En sluit aan by die patrolliegroep, selfs al kan jy net een dag per maand patroleer.

Weereens baie dankie aan die paar vrywillige patroleerders vir die aktiewe patrolling van ons strate en die uitgebreide ure wat hulle die afgelope paar maande ingesit het. ↪

BENEFIT FROM WHATSAPP GROUPS



WhatsApp groups can be valuable and frustrating at the same time. Especially if it's a group that you can't leave because it's the only source of essential information. But there can be that one annoying person or group who insists on spamming the entire group to share memes, paranoia, and political views, or who veers off-topic. No one would – or should – go into one place of worship and preach another religion.

To help with this perpetual problem, here is a list of “Golden Rules” for WhatsApp groups:

- ★ Always keep to the purpose of the group! Don't share irrelevant messages about other topics.
- ★ Do not spam the group! If you would like a group to share memes, adverts or deals, then set one up for that exact purpose and invite others to join. Avoid sharing a join-link indiscriminately.
- ★ Don't be offended if others leave. Not everyone wants the same information. Avoid being the reason others leave, though.
- ★ Do politely excuse yourself before you leave a group.
- ★ Don't have one-on-one conversations in the group. Switch to private messages.
- ★ Do not post in any group between 21:00 and 07:00 unless it is an all-out emergency. By emergency, we mean the “blood, floods, and broken bones” type of emergency, not the “I needed the scones recipe at 2 AM because I had the munchies” type of emergency.

- ★ If a message asks for a positive response like an RSVP, don't reply in the negative. Only say if you can attend. Don't double RSVP if a second call to action is sent out for the same event.
- ★ If someone asks a question and you don't know the answer don't respond with “I don't know”. Just wait for someone who knows the answer to reply.
- ★ Please don't send in a hundred “thank you” messages. If you feel gratitude towards someone – tell them in a private message.
- ★ If someone asks a question of a personal nature (like asking for advice) don't respond if someone else has already answered, or else respond to the person directly in a private message.
- ★ Avoid arguing, heated opinions, fearmongering, hyped-up drama, and fake news. Check your sources before you share.
- ★ Never EVER use a group to berate someone else or air grievances. If you have an issue address it one-on-one with the relevant person.
- ★ Mute your WhatsApp group (unless you're part of an emergency rescue group). This is a sanity saver. You will still receive all the messages, but your phone won't buzz or make a noise for every one of them.

If you're unsure, ask yourself these four questions before you post:

- ★ Is this relevant?
- ★ Is this necessary?
- ★ Is this respectful?
- ★ Is this a good time to post?

Rooiels WhatsApp groups

RECA - Rooiels Communications, for information, official notifications, and also for urgent communication on immediate issues

Village People - chat group to connect, share photos, event notices, and request information (KEEP IT LIGHT AND DONT SPAM WITH ADVERTS)

Rooiels Matters - where villagers can debate issues and discuss the pros and cons of projects to help them make informed decisions about the village (DO NOT ADVERTISE, ANNOUNCE, OR CHAT HERE)

ReWild - where nature lovers share numerous photos and information on flora, fauna, and nature in general

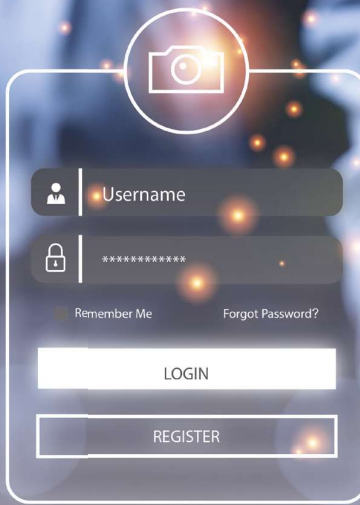
The official Safety and Security group, **Rooi Els Block Watch**, is for Rooielsers to alert fellow villagers about incidents - *not to chat about the efficiency of processes*. To be added to this group, please send a WhatsApp message to: Peter Koning on 0824911463 or Hilgard Muller on 0828988202. Please state your name, surname, and erf number. They require you to also state who recommended you as all members are verified for security purposes.

📌 Free up space on your device

On the WhatsApp chat list page, open the individual chat or group whose media you want to delete. Once inside the chat, press the three-dot menu button and find the **Group media** option.

On the Media tab, press and hold the first picture you want to delete, then select any other pictures you also want to delete, and press the delete button. Say YES to also delete the media from your device.

We use mobile phones more than ever to access online services and our phones have become an additional authentication method for online banking and email accounts. The thought of losing one's phone is inconceivable



SECURING YOUR DEVICES

RALPH PINA

Criminals often target digital devices such as mobile phones, tablets, and laptops. This opens us up to the risk of identity theft, theft from online bank accounts, or the use of payment apps such as Apple Pay, Google Pay, Samsung Wallet (previously Samsung Pay), Snapscan, Zapper, etc. Unscrupulous individuals may also use your devices to copy digital credentials, such as usernames and passwords, or obtain identity information that they can use to impersonate you.

It is practical to accept that some of these devices could be lost or stolen at some point and, therefore, critical to limit access to your devices and the software (apps) and accounts on them. This simple guide may help:

PROTECT YOUR DEVICES

Essentially, there are three levels, or factors, to increase security:

- **What you know:** a pattern, password and/or PIN. As these are often weak, guessable or have been stolen elsewhere, they represent the weakest form of security.
- **What you have:** a token like a USB dongle or smartcard, generally only in use with corporate laptops. Our mobile phones are increasingly the “what you have” for access to accounts and other

devices. This security feature is sometimes called Multifactor Authentication. An example is when your bank sends you a one-time-pin (OTP) to complete your login.

- **What you are:** or “biometrics”. These include fingerprints, facial recognition, and iris scanning. Most modern devices support fingerprints and facial recognition.

At the very least activate a pattern, PIN, or strong password on your devices. But if your device is biometrics capable, DO ENABLE fingerprint and/or facial recognition.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR APPS OR ACCOUNTS

A password alone is not enough to protect your important accounts or apps, such as your Microsoft, Google, or Apple accounts. These accounts offer the option to enable multi-factor authentication. This means that, in addition to, or instead of, a password, you will receive a one-time-pin (OTP) via SMS or email. Alternatively, you can install an Authenticator app on your mobile phone that provides a temporary code for the account you want to log into.

This additional step requires your involvement and offers an opportunity to block anyone else

from logging into one of your accounts. Even if you do make use of multifactor authentication or an Authenticator app, if your device offers authentication with biometrics, you are strongly encouraged to enable it. Always use someone you trust to help you set these up if you are not too tech-savvy.

SETTING UP YOUR DEVICE ACCOUNT TO TRACE AND LOCATE YOUR DEVICE

Nowadays, most people either have Microsoft Windows, Apple iOS, or Google Android operating systems on their devices. When you set up a new device, each operating system requires you to register or log in to the associated account. So, you are likely to have a Microsoft, Apple and/or Google account. Make sure that you know how to log into these accounts because they help you enable all the above security features and more. They also allow you to remotely track and control the devices should they be stolen or lost.

These accounts allow you to nominate the devices that may log into the relevant account and enable you to remove a device's eligibility to log in should you no longer possess it. Should someone, or you, attempt to log in from a new device, most of these accounts will send you a

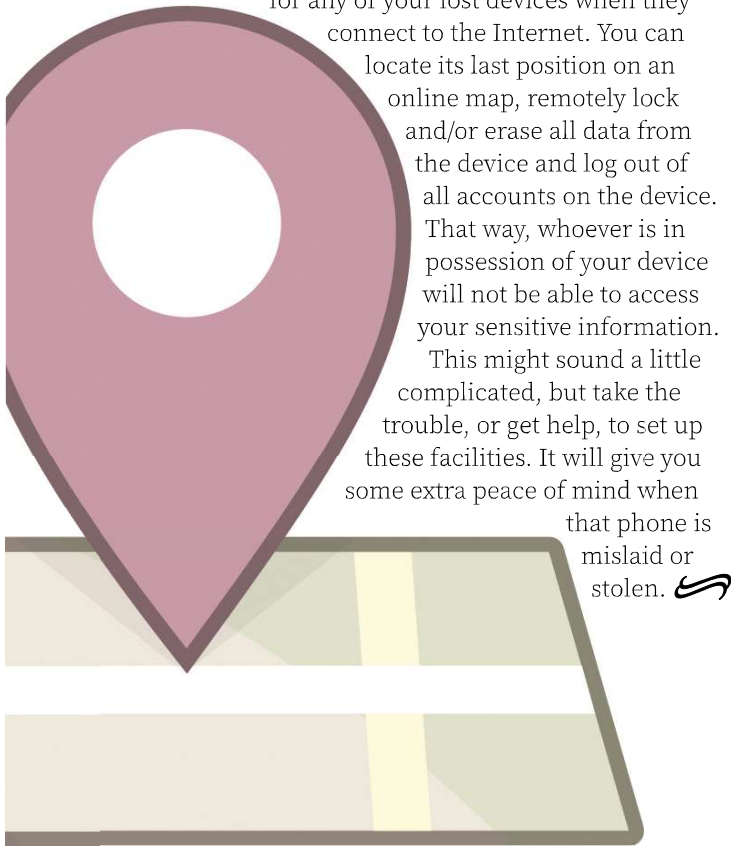
security alert, usually via email, to verify the login.

Of course, it is necessary to access the Internet via another device. Using another computer to log into your account, you will be able to perform several functions

for any of your lost devices when they connect to the Internet. You can locate its last position on an online map, remotely lock and/or erase all data from the device and log out of all accounts on the device.

That way, whoever is in possession of your device will not be able to access your sensitive information.

This might sound a little complicated, but take the trouble, or get help, to set up these facilities. It will give you some extra peace of mind when that phone is mislaid or stolen. ↪



BLACKLIST YOUR STOLEN/LOST PHONE

Blacklisting your device helps fight crime because the device is placed on the Equipment Identity Register (EIR) and is rendered unusable in many countries.

Your mobile network operator will help with the blocking of your SIM and blacklisting of your device. You will need to provide your phone's IMEI, which is on your phone's box. It's always a good idea to keep your device's IMEI written somewhere even before you have lost your phone. You can also dial *#06# on any mobile device to retrieve its IMEI.

After your phone is blacklisted, you will be issued an ITC number to use on your police report and/or insurance claims. Report all theft to the police and note down the case number.

Mobile network customer service numbers:

- MTN: 183 135
- Vodacom: 082 135
- Telkom: 081 180
- Cell C: 084 140

Willie du Plooy



“Living in Rooiels opens one to nature, to the rhythms and cycles of life. We live close to miracles; it is in the everyday personal encounters with our wild neighbours, in the flowering of a new protea ... This Breeze is a celebration of that.” So starts Breeze 2014. Keith Moir wrote to appeal to fellow villagers

“to keep our village the quiet and peaceful place which made it so attractive to lure you to this little piece of heaven we call Rooi Els.”

His writing follows his intention to sit down on a bright Spring morning to enjoy a cup of coffee and enjoy the sunshine and peace which makes Rooi Els so attractive to all who are privileged to live in this beautiful village. But then, “the peace was disturbed by the strident call of burglar alarms heralding the arrival, in town, of the baboon troop.” He asked that people only use their outside beams while they are spending time in their homes. He pointed out that “during the weeks and months that you are not in residence, the baboons present little threat to your home because all is secured and food is not visible”.

Malcolm and Diana Hunter wrote from Switzerland to reassure villagers that they shared the community's concern about the building work on their property which had suffered unforeseen circumstances and required reinforcement. “It may seem unlikely to some at this point, but both of us are ardent nature lovers, and one of our main motivations to buy in Rooi Els was the splendid natural surroundings. We are fully committed to the restoration of the roadside nature”.

That edition also includes this snippet: “According to ‘Living the Vision’, should you require a fence, we are advised to avoid restricting the free movement of

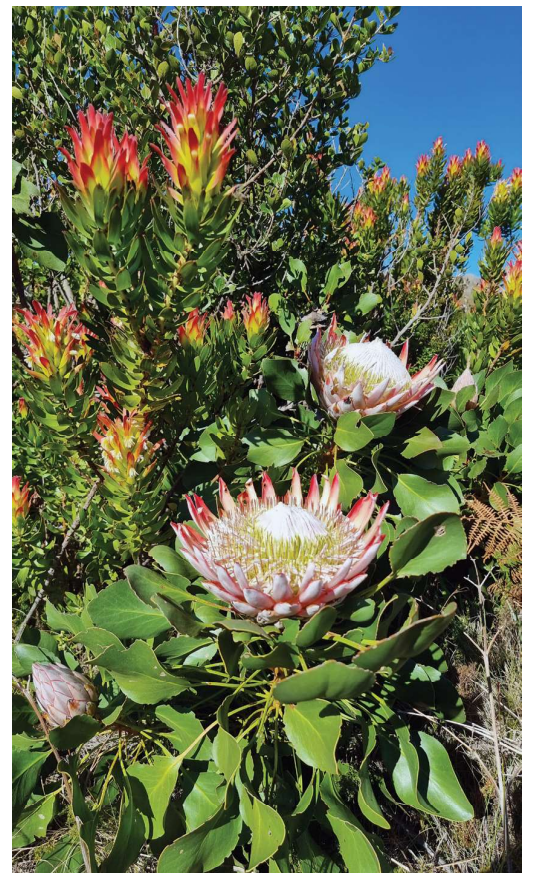
our wild animals – of which an increasing variety and number seem to travel through the fynbos and which include rabbits, small buck, tortoises, porcupines, even leopards and caracal – by placing the fence well within the perimeter of the property and avoiding solid walls.”

Eneth Kruger wrote: “As a community privileged to live on the edge of a Biosphere, Rooielsers witness nature events as part of our daily lives; animal behaviour that inspires scientific study and intrigues scientists! Maybe it is time to take stock of our own role in nature, here in Rooiels, and reassess our attitude towards the fauna and flora that surround us. Do we only protect and cherish what we like and what suits us, or do we take a wider view? Perhaps we can ... plant[ing] locally indigenous species that provide food for birds, tortoises, mice, baboons ... Maybe it's not such a sacrifice to turn off unnecessary lights at night to consider nocturnal animals. What about slowing down to let a mongoose, or the francolins, or even a snake cross the road safely? We can outwit our primate visitors (after all we do claim to be the clever ones) instead of complaining about their intelligence ... many a Rooiels conversation about baboons features the statement that the baboons should be shot and ‘gotten rid of’. ‘I'm a prisoner in my own house’ is the lament. Perhaps we are prisoners of our own minds. Is there really such a big difference between securing your home from thieves and preventing a baboon raid? We humans top the food chain. We are the ones who pollute. We destroy habitat. We are the intolerant ones when nature tries to adapt and survive the impact of Homo sapiens.”

Anuta pointed out that there had never been so many building projects (new houses and renovations) underway at any given time. She praised owners

and building teams for treading carefully and for cleaning up around their premises. “It is essential to rehabilitate erven and road reserves sensitively. This is a natural area, let's keep our erven natural, too. Try to replace with plants that were present on your property before building operations started. This is especially important for the road reserves which have been recognised internationally as vital seedbanks of indigenous plants. These indigenous-to-Rooiels plants grow on your property for a reason – they are specially adapted to the conditions there. The conditions on your plot differ from five plots down the road – keep to what is naturally present and you will enjoy success.”

The Municipality asked property owners to clear their plots in line with the Fire Hazards Management Policy of September 2013. Anuta and Ernst Thompson (Sr.) advise that each plot is different and the indigenous flora on each needs an individual approach. “Firstly, we have three basic types of fynbos e.g. Mountain fynbos (Proteaceae, Ericaceae, etc. dominant), Vleiland fynbos (restios sages, and certain Proteaceae) and lastly the Coastal Belt fynbos (gwarrie, taaibos,



colpoon, etc.) It must be kept in mind that the last type is of a more succulent nature and thus fireproof to a great extent ... Due to our strong winds, it is practically impossible for anyone to grow a specimen tree, The only real way to counter this is by doing mass planting so that trees can support each other. To open these trees at the bottom is to guarantee their loss against the wind ... We have a specific ecology at the foot of the mountain with specific flora and fauna. It will have a detrimental effect if the lower vegetation is cut to 50 cm. This is not at all natural for this type of vegetation ... One must remember that residents bought here as this appealed to them ... When reducing the fynbos fire load, concentrate on old woody plants and prune them to about 30 cm which will enable them to resprout easily. Pay special attention to *Metalasia muricata* (blombos) ... Avoid leaving large areas stripped of all plant material." Almost ten years later, and it seems we are still trying to bring the message across to officials.

Mark Butler announced that the

Rooiels Security Association (RESA) had been formed with the objective of becoming the entity through which security services were to be managed. This initiative raised important issues that resulted in security taking centre stage and necessitating a separate entity to oversee its goals. Residents had had enough and desperately needed a way to get crime under control.

"Imagine this", wrote Anuta, "driving through an avenue of Australian myrtles lining Ocean View Drive, admiring the forest of large rooikrans trees in the nature reserve, watching baboons climbing in the huge rooikrans trees opposite the CBD, many roads forming little tunnels through tall aliens. This was Rooiels as we came to know it almost 40 years ago." Forty years ago homeowners realised they would have to do something about the aliens. With very few permanent residents, mostly weekenders and holiday visitors would gather once a year to hack. Later, this became a quarterly exercise. Hackers had to drive away their own branches, they had to use their own equipment, and there were no sandwiches and

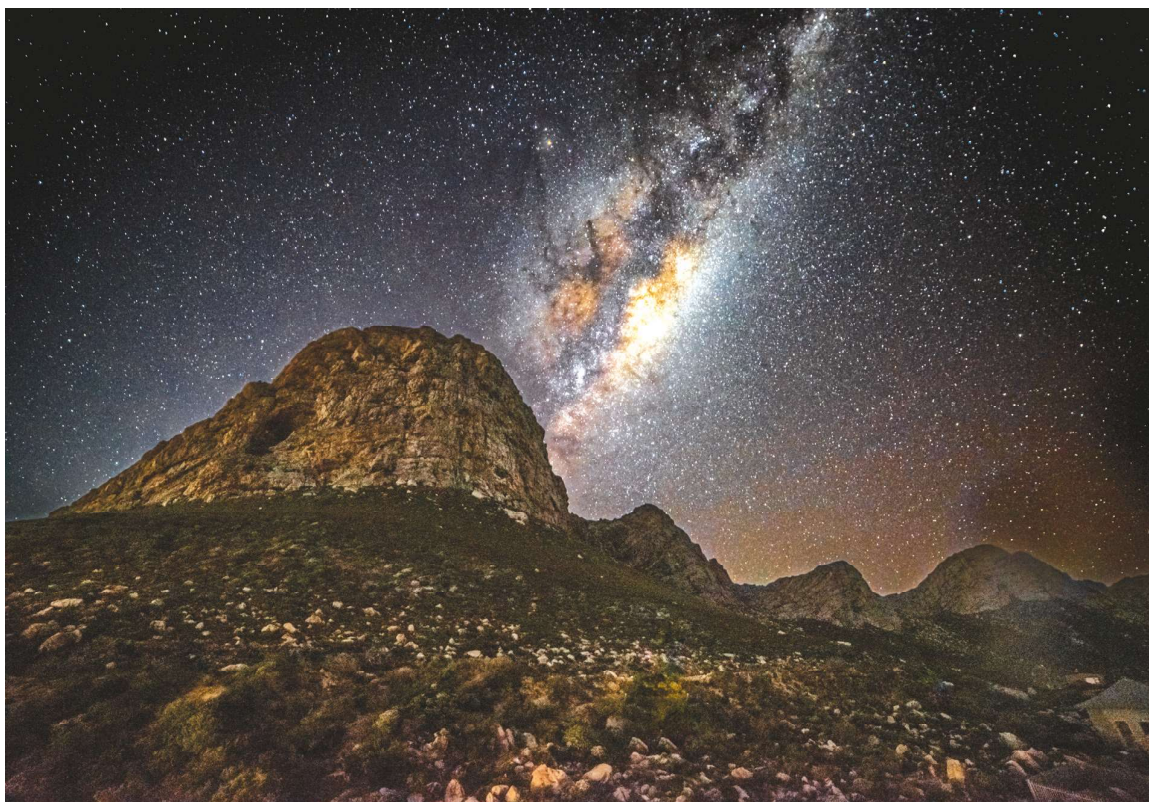
beer waiting as a reward.

"And then, one day, Jean Cowen (the original hacker) came up with a plan to hack once a month. Oh, no, I thought, this will never work. Well, our numbers grew to in the 20s on a hack day. Looking back, if it wasn't for this effort, this village would still be choking in a forest of invasive alien plants. So, what has changed? The young hackers are all a lot older (two hackers are in their eighties), we can only work for two hours before exhaustion sets in, we are treated to sandwiches and beer afterwards, the municipality picks up the cuttings, equipment has been purchased, and our numbers have shrunk to around 12 ... Surely the job should be finished by now? Unfortunately, rooikrans seeds remain viable for 40 years or more. That means that we are still removing Rooikrans trees which can trace their ancestry to those first big trees we cut down. On top of that, we still have some property owners who believe that their rooikrans isn't doing any damage! And we need more bodies working. Here's something you should know: Everybody will be received with the

uit klein-hangklip kook
die melkweg oor en waaier
sterre oor my pad

HAIKOE DEUR GERARD SCHOLTZ

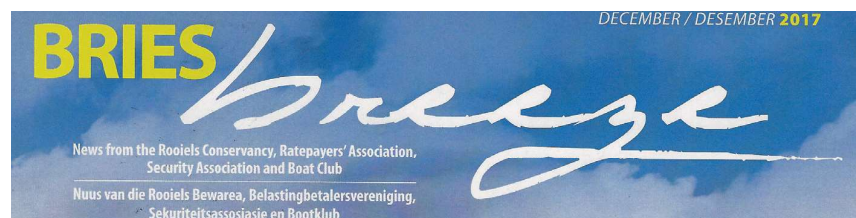
Steve Mullins



warmest of welcomes if you pitch up on just one hack. Those two hours of your life will be the most rewarding!"

Another fire scare occurred on 28 February but was dealt with quickly. Jill Lockley and Wolfgang Steinbach were on the scene, beating the flames, and were joined by official firefighters, a helicopter, and two spotter planes. The fire came close to some homes and was a reminder of the dangers of fire in our fynbos area. Later, after a storm, the pillar at the Rooiels slipway collapsed. It was the only remains of a jetty from yesteryear. And a tribute to Tony Hall, "another great son of Rooiels, [who] passed away in January this year. His great contribution to Rooiels will be remembered, specifically to our knowledge and appreciation of our indigenous flora."

The RERA committee of 2017 was a small team, dedicated to ensuring that Rooiels interests were represented at a Ward 10 level, the municipality, and provincially. The local government continued to experience cash and personnel resource constraints, which meant that it was increasingly challenging to obtain consistent municipal services that used to be taken for granted. Villagers were reminded to keep outdoor lighting to a minimum, to keep dogs on a leash in all public areas, to pick up any rubbish they might encounter, and to get to know their neighbours.



"There were many lessons learnt through this experience and a task team supported by RESA, RERA, and REC are now working together to have a co-ordinated response and action plan in place." Amida Johns from the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve reminded readers: "With such a tinderbox, and the help of the ever-present Cape winds, a lit fire can spread rapidly across the landscape. Ignition is caused naturally by lightning strikes that occur predominantly in our Autumn months and are timed to coincide with the coming rainy season. The plants in the fynbos as such all have life-rejuvenating strategies that are completely tied to these periodic burning events. The fires however do have to occur at distant enough intervals to allow for the plants to accumulate sufficient stores of seed, either in the canopy of the plant itself or within the top layer of the underlying soil. In the bleakness of the post fire environment, the Protea and Leucadendron species rapidly

The 2017 Breeze boasts a new outfit and Dick Lockley, the hack convener, tells the inspiring story of Ulrike Potgieter, an earlier inhabitant of Rooiels who set herself the goal of pulling out 100 rooikrans seedlings each day. "She was a fascinating person whose life Gerard Scholtz has captured in a novel (Lig Wankelend). We all need to follow her example and set ourselves targets to uproot these seedlings now!"

||| The village was still getting to grips with the fire in March of that year, and you could still hear villagers talk about that night. |||

"The homes of Miggie and Debbie Silbernagel and that of Lorna Lindsay were totally destroyed as the fire spread. Many other homes also sustained varying degrees of damage," wrote Hilgard Muller.

From: Breeze 2017



open up to release the seeds that have been stored on the plant over the past number of years ... The seedlings that germinate from the soil in the newly exposed landscape include the many different species of fynbos Erica. Of much interest in the Rooiels area is the curious and rare Erica brachialis. This woody Erica holds out in rocky areas along the coastal line of Rooiels where fires less frequently pass through or are not as intense. The adult plant may recover from a scorching burn by shooting from its fibrous woody trunk. Individual plants may therefore grow to an impressive age and size in a vegetation that readily favours a more rapid turnover of mature plants. Plants of this Red-listed threatened species have also been protected on the residential road verges of the village."

It had been a year of research for Joselyn Mormile, who was a PhD student at the University of Cape Town's Department of Biological Sciences and the Institute for Communities and Wildlife in Africa

(iCWild). Her research focused on the Rooiels baboon troop because it was the only known urban landscape where residents and baboons seem to maintain a certain degree of coexistence. "In the face of increasing worldwide urbanisation, Rooiels is a leading example of what it means to adapt to sharing space with wildlife and protecting the local environment.

She wrote, "While the Rooiels baboons will jump at the opportunity to gain human foods if given the chance, their general purpose for visiting town every day is, in fact, to forage in the abundant fynbos on properties. This is only possible because of resident awareness and cooperation in preventing these opportunities. Chancer's (a male that moved into the Rooiels troop territory) urban foraging tactics and tense demeanour perfectly illustrated what happens when the delicate balance between humans and baboons is disrupted as a result of their easy access to human foods, whether intentional (purposefully feeding baboons) or not (unsecured homes or bins). Fortunately, because of Rooielsers' experience and forward thinking, I strongly suspect that Chancer soon grew tired of his poor luck at gaining human foods and left Rooiels." Chancer moved to Pringle Bay, but a few months later his body was discovered on the mountain slopes on the edge of town. The cause of death was never confirmed. Kaelin DeLong (see article elsewhere in this edition) joined Joselyn and they collared the alpha female of the troop. "The collar data has shown me that the troop's core home range focuses almost entirely in and around the village."

Jill Lockley, an avid gardener, wrote how gardening in Rooiels "is a character-building exercise – but rewarding when you succeed ... Look around at the gardens and pristine fynbos in your area and see what flourishes. The choice of plants is important. Plant fynbos

which is hardy ... And remember not to garden the road reserves – they belong to the municipality and it's essential that they be kept natural as they are the seedbanks of the future." Jill also promoted the then-newly released book by Dave de Klerk (recently re-printed), telling of his experience of gardening in Rooiels and including some recent photos from his garden.

This year several newbies shared their reason for choosing Rooiels. Holger and Rix Wellmann, David and Sonet van der Merwe, Roy and Carol Terlien, James and Cathy Welsh, as well as Ian and Steph Milne moved to Rooiels on a permanent basis, some after visiting for several years prior. Oh, and the spelling of Rooiels is confirmed to be one word.

In September 2018, The Voices of Rooiels workshop aimed to gain an understanding of our wider context and political and socio-economic realities, to create a sense of belonging and good neighbourliness, and to understand RERA's role in the community. Allison Vienings expressed a renewed call for membership in support of "a dedicated, enthusiastic, hard-working and energetic group of people on the RERA Committee who give hours of their time protecting your interests."

"Zoning issues, which call for a balance between individual freedom and community interests, spirit and aspirations; [b]aboon management and living in harmony with our troop; [and t]he implications of living in the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve and the responsibility this brings to Rooiels residents as custodians of our environment" are listed as the most prominent issues and challenges in the village, as Allison summed up 2019. The replacement of ageing water infrastructure was underway and the deterioration of the gravel roads was addressed.

At the end of 2018 Allison Vienings reminded villagers that one "of the committee's goals is to





build good relationships between all ratepayers/residents and to identify and mobilise the capabilities, skills and resources of individuals and the community ... will continue to strive to protect Rooiels and the interest of those lucky enough to reside here ... It is thus imperative that we increase our membership of the Association. This will give us more say in matters that affect us all. If you are not a member, I urge you to join ... and to encourage non-members to sign up." She also announced the new edition of the book, of which Gerard Scholtz is the editor: *Rooiels, a village between the mountains and the sea*. Other good news was that the efforts of RESA were paying off and that incidents of crime in Rooiels had dropped to almost non-existent.

REC also had a great year. It was reported that the integration and communication between them and RERA had become more effective, as REC maintained a seat on RERA. "There are many overlaps in the various functions of each organisation such as fire safety, plot clearing, building regulations, road verges and much more. This meant the RERA representative at the Ward 10 Council meetings is thoroughly informed and able to represent Rooiels environmental issues at that forum." Jill received accolades for her work on the village gardens and the late Janette Yeats, with her contacts at SANBI, secured a small cottage at Harold Porter Gardens to accommodate

the Rooiels Eco-Centre, which used to be housed at the Village Shop.

For the boat club, the major matter was the uncertainty over the Rooiels slipway. "In short, the future is not what it used to be. Limited-use slipways are now seen as exclusive and are seen as a way of limiting access to the sea for all who wish to use it and are either being changed into Public Launch Sites or being closed. A limited-use slipway is no longer an option. Policy on slipways is a Provincial Government responsibility and Overstrand, as the local authority, is deemed to be the Managing Body of all slipways in the municipal area. We are working together to reach the best mutually beneficial solution we can achieve."

Veronica Jacobs wrote that Mike du Toit caused a buzz when he indicated that Rooiels, within the framework of UNESCO guidelines, can take charge of its own environmental destiny by reinforcing and reaffirming its KBR designation as a buffer zone, or by accepting that Rooiels would change into a transitional zone which allows industry and development. The latter would change the essence of what Rooiels had managed to remain for many years. It is quite evident that Rooiels forums such as the Rooiels Ratepayers Association and the Rooiels Conservancy will have to take the lead, in collaboration with the KBRC, Overstrand Municipality, Cape Nature, DEA and UNESCO, to confirm the designated status of

the village and, accordingly, to stick to the plan. The KBR Framework Plan demonstrates how sustainable development can be achieved through reconciling biodiversity and development imperatives. Within a diverse range of land-use planning and management systems employed by numerous land-use decision makers within the KBR, the Framework Plan serves as a common platform to guide land-use decision making, and has consequently been adopted by relevant municipalities. The Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve Company is determined to be visible, active and involved with all communities in the biosphere as the region faces major challenges with regard to housing, vacant land and poverty. KBRC acknowledges both diversity and different attitudes, and the needs and goals of all who live in the Biosphere, and will work hard to ensure that all voices are heard and considered. However, to quote Tim Atwell, "Living in a biosphere is a state of mind". We cannot distance ourselves or ignore the needs and demands of the biosphere or those of nature as the eternal provider.

Breeze 2018, on pages 12 and 13 also contains a great insert on the Rooiels Disaster Response Plan. Another article told of the relationship between fynbos and fire, and ended on a familiar note: "Be obsessive about removing alien vegetation, especially of the Australian origin. Rooikrans (*Acacia cyclops*) burns fiercely."

Reminiscing over the Voices of Rooiels Workshop, Margie Ellis said: "My favourite part of the day was the session on Conservation, Baboons and the Kogelberg Biosphere. Professor Justin O'Riain gave detailed information, in the most sensitive and humorous manner, on all the issues surrounding humans and baboons sharing space. His love and admiration for Rooiels came across very clearly. I came away realising there is no one-size-fits

all approach and it is up to each community to determine for itself whether it is in the best interests of both the human and baboon populations to co-exist, and if choosing to do so, how to manage this co-existence with the well-being of both populations taken into consideration.



For me it was a great privilege to participate in the “Voices of Rooiels” conference at the end of September this year. Rooiels is a very special and unique community. Some of my best friends live here, including wildlife attractions such as the baboons, otters, seals, black eagles and rock jumpers. We also have very famous occasional visitors, of which the leopards deserve mention. This community is a Councillor’s delight because of only the small number of complaints and the many achievements ... maybe because it is defying, in a certain way, our Constitution by being a small republic that rules itself.
Fanie Krige, 2018



Tim Attwell, being both a keen and knowledgeable conservationist and naturalist as well as something of a philosopher provided many insightful thoughts we would do well to often remind ourselves of.

Quoting other philosophers and naturalists he shared, “Living in a Biosphere Reserve is a state of mind. It is a combination of attitudes, internalised responsibilities and perspectives. It is perceiving the environment as enlivening - rather than as a threat. What we do with land needs to take into consideration the other organisms that are using it.”

A few more well-known names joined the Rooiels community, including Ajit Daya and Anita Parbhoo, Gustav and Antoinette Schoeman, and Li Chunlan and Zhang Yi. It was the year that the Village People WhatsApp group started in response to pleas that the security WhatsApp group was not the place to share whale breaches. “The security site was solely for reporting POIs and VOIs, keeping track of the compost and fish sellers and monitoring the poacher activity, and not for sharing exciting news of fauna and flora around us ... Village People gives us an opportunity to be connected to each other, to enhance the spirit of and caring for our unique

community. Our messages highlight all that is great in our village and together we share our collective appreciation for the beauty, in all its many forms, which surrounds us.” How little has changed? And how easy it has become to villainise the admin who try to maintain order. Find a handy guide on village WhatsApp groups elsewhere in this edition.

2019! Another year, another Breeze editor – Dine van Zyl, and renewed calls for harmony among villagers. With a slogan of “Make the circle bigger”, RERA aimed for residents to work successfully with each other rather than against each other. Prominent issues, which by then were recurring themes in the village, were zoning issues (which call for a balance between individual freedom and community interest, spirit and aspirations), baboon management and living in harmony with our troop, and the implications of living in the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve and the responsibility this places on Rooiels residents as custodians of our environment. And another wine auction to boost the funds of RERA. The village gardens were given a do-over and Bruce Relly turned 90.

“The long-term vision of the municipality for our precious environment is to manage, protect and sustainably use the natural



assets of our areas in partnership with the relevant communities, to preserve the continued existence of our rich biodiversity and to ensure its associated ecological processes and services. It sees its mission to conserve the rich biodiversity, diverse natural ecosystems, and cultural heritage characteristics of our environment through the implementation of management programmes that have clearly defined management goals and objectives for the enlightenment, enjoyment, and benefit of present and future generations. This is done by the Environmental Management Section, which is divided into two units: Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Planning.”

The devastating fire of 2019 also placed renewed focus on the need for a more integrated approach and long-term planning proposal for fuel load reduction and fire break management.

RESA broadened its objective beyond the reduction of crime incidents in the wake of yet another fire situation at the beginning of the year. They aim to make Rooiels a safer place for all. Peter Köning reported that four confirmed house breakings occurred between July and August and that it appeared

that the perpetrators hired a house in Rooiels to use as a base. “We have still much to do and so few to do it with. So, once again the clarion call goes out to take up a patrol slot of one hour every fortnight or month – and become one of the few, so the few may become the many.” The Rooiels Disaster Incident (REDI) programme is well prepared with a new megaphone and Johann de Jager from Gossip Corner kindly donated a trailer to use as a makeshift fire truck. “As a community, we were shocked by the fire in Rooiels in 2017. This was followed by the horrendous fire in January 2019, which ravaged through the whole Kogelberg area, burning down 42 homes in Betty’s Bay.”

Dick praised a successful hack team because “our highest number at one hack was 19 and our lowest turn-out was 11.” In addition to the regular hackers, Mark Butler offered a space for the hack store, Ernst Thompson donated a drum of poison, Gail Voigt sourced ladies in the village to host the monthly hack tea, Riel Buys sorted out the hack store, Elizabeth Moss provided shelving, Gavin Lundie helped with the mixing of the poison, dye and water in the correct proportions needed for the hack, and John

Charalambous sent out the hack notices. Today, this is just such a successful group and well worth the time of anyone wanting to get to know their fellow villagers while taking part in a very important activity.

In 2020, an invisible hand pressed pause! And Hilgard Muller, new chairman of RERA, said: “The future isn’t what it used to be” following long period of lockdown as a result of Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2). He reminded readers about the Rooiels Vision and continued: “without sound relationships, there is bound to be chaos ... our social contract as a community which must surely be inclusive, voluntary, supportive, cohesive, and for the greater good which extends to the environment we live in ... with open, real, and respectful conversation, dialogue, information sharing, education, and workshops. We will have to become self-reliant, better protect our Biosphere Reserve ... advance and protect biodiversity ... protect our marine resources.” This Breeze also praises the work of the community outreach programme.

Anita Parbhoo reflected on the effects of Covid-19: “This devastating virus seemed to come from nowhere and has managed to

Izak Smit



entirely change the way we live our lives and how we connect with each other – for work, social and prayer purposes. We went from being able to dictate where and when we could travel, to being confined in our own spaces. It seemed that nature itself was throwing us a curveball, as the natural environment was given a breather and allowed to thrive while we were immobilised.” On the topic of environment, Veronica Jacobs shared valuable insight into the Rooiels Eco-Corridor, which would maintain an essential equilibrium between development and a sustainable ecosystem. “An important management goal of Biosphere Reserves is the establishment of ecological corridors aimed at keeping ecosystems healthy, protecting their biological diversity and ensuring habitats remain connected. In this way, vital environmental services such as the provision of clean water, air and soil are also safeguarded. Ecological corridors are equally important as migration routes for the many forms of wildlife within living and interactive ecosystems ... Rooiels, which has a virtually undisturbed catchment extending from the mountains to the sea, is unique in the sense that the bulk of the Rooiels catchment, approximately 20 square kilometres, falls within the Core and Buffer Zones of the KBR.”

The Rooiels Disaster Incident (REDI) team further upped their game to be ready to be the first respondent in a crisis. REDI operates as a volunteer group affiliated to RESA. REDI is now the proud owner of a large trailer, skid, water tank, water pumps, hoses, couplings, siren, strobes, traffic cones and a toolbox.”

By the end of 2020, it was clear that our lives had changed forever. Hilgard Müller, chairperson of RERA wrote of how many of the challenges experienced by Rooiels in the past would most likely repeat themselves in the future, much like one can deduct

from reading the past editions of the Breeze. “We will have to be more self-reliant and better protect our Biosphere Reserve. We must support sustainable development and promote and protect biodiversity.... Liaison with Overstrand Municipality (Town planning, Budgets, Operational Service), Councillors, Ward Committees, Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve Company, CapeNature, Marine Action Group, Baboon Action Groups, the Community Police Forum, and others, are sometimes tedious and tiring, but absolutely necessary to forward the viewpoints, frustrations, wants, contributions and expectations specific to Rooiels.... the importance of the Rooiels Vision as a driving force to our social contract as a community which must surely be inclusive, voluntary, supportive, cohesive and for the greater good which extends to the environment we live in.... Do we long for what was and are we preserving the Rooiels for ourselves as it "used to be," or should we be taking Rooiels to the future in order to function in a new South Africa? Do we keep Rooiels for the older folk, or should we ensure that new generations inherit a Rooiels that is sustainable, unique, and relevant in the 21st century? Should they not be giving us direction and guidance as to what they want and see for the future? How can we involve this younger generation?”

DECEMBER 2021

Rooiels Breeze

Gavin Lundie, chairman of REC 2021 writes: “Over the years many great people have served on the REC committee and worked wonders to make Rooiels a beautifully natural and environmentally friendly village. The Rooiels Vision was created way back, when folks realized how important it was to keep our region and village in harmony with nature. The Cape Floral Kingdom in which we live is unique and has UNESCO backing. We are in the transition zone of the Kogelberg Biosphere, a proclaimed World Heritage site. Our region remains home to many wild animals such as leopard, caracal, klipspringer, grysbok, porcupine, mongoose, baboon, seal, otter, rabbit, reptiles and many more species too numerous to list here. We have a wide variety of birds, some very rare, that live in the region. REC serves to be the custodian of our natural environment.” This was another busy year and still closed with “a comprehensive list of maintenance activities such as repairing of garbage bins, slipway clean-up, repair of public toilets, pathways, signage and many other activities has been compiled and are being

Bries

executed in due course.” The Mandela day beach clean-up was attended by 57 Rooielsers – what a turn-out – to fill bags with litter and move huge mounds of kelp to the dunes where they will help to stabilise the shifting sands. On the same day, Wolfgang Steinbach and Ivan Becker recovered a washed-up shark net from the rocks. Unfortunately, a dead penguin was entangled in the net. In August, an attendance record of 21 hackers, and in September, 50 people managed to fill 30 bin bags, estimated to weigh between 100-150kgs. How amazing, when Rooielsers step up!

“REC and RERA began 2020 with a serious concern about the legal status of our Rooiels Nature Reserve, the wonderful portion of lowland ‘sand’ fynbos that is an oasis of wild-ness between Rooiels village and the sea ... effectively provides a core area for conservation in a conservation-conscious village. It is also set to play a motivating

role in our application (as per the mandate given by stakeholders at the 2018 RERA AGM and 2019 Cascades meeting) for Rooiels to be designated as a buffer zone adjacent to core areas of the Kogelberg Biosphere ... correlating a proposed management and rehabilitation document with the original general by-laws and management plan in the founding documents ... The reserve is a magical place. What might appear to be a dry, colourless patch, hides shy violets, minute orchids, rare Erica brachialis, tortoise, mongoose, red rock rabbit, frogs, snakes, prolific birdlife, and an unexplored insect world. This is a place for residents to appreciate and conserve as we prepare to hand the baton of curatorship on to the next generation of Rooielsers."

Hilgard Muller summed 2021 up as a difficult year. "The country endured a dreadful phase of burning and looting, and unemployment rocketed to record levels ... I see Rooiels as a model village for sustainable living, with housing and lifestyles in harmony with the natural environment. A place where people advocate and participate in conservation, protection, and restoration of the natural landscapes and ecosystems in our area ... subscribe to the 17 UNESCO sustainable development goals." The Rooiels Outreach team went from strength to strength and the photo competition highlighted the family time and moments of personal adventure as the lockdown

continued to restrict gatherings and movement.

We were reminded that "[T]he Western Cape is home to seven biomes, of which the Greater Cape Floristic Region is the smallest but most diverse of the six floral Kingdoms of the World. Rooiels is located within this region and is comprised of Kogelberg Sandstone Fynbos (listed as critically Endangered), Overberg Dune Strandveld and Hangklip Sand Fynbos (both listed as Endangered). Rooiels is an integral part of the coastal villages of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve that was designated by UNESCO in December 1998 and forms part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Kogelberg Nature Reserve (KNR) is included in the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas World Heritage Site, listed by UNESCO in 2014. The coastal villages are included in the transition zone of the KBR with the buffer zone surrounding the villages. The eco-corridor falls within the buffer zone and will connect the KNR with the coastline at Rooiels."

"Rooiels is a model village for sustainable living", Hilgard wrote in the 2021 report. Water and electricity outages became quite an irritation while the effects of Covid-19 were slowly making way for the new normal. Sadly, the question about a future Rooiels remains unanswered because, seemingly, "[t]here are more viewpoints than inhabitants in Rooiels."

Backed by the Rooiels Vision and

the overwhelming support for the Conservancy agenda, RERA 2022 focused on aspects that would pave the way for future interactions with the Overstrand Municipality. This included joining the Joint Operations Committee (JOCOM) and representation on the resuscitated Community Police Forum (CPF), which should keep villagers better informed and support RESA and the Police in securing the village.

Chairperson Kay Leresche writes that a new comprehensive communication infrastructure for the village has been established. They worked tirelessly to update the membership records and cleaned up the contacts list. RERA sent out regular Ward 10, JOCOM, and committee meeting feedback newsletters (28 at last count), which are also collated in an online archive. Newsletters were followed by sending the link to the newsletter via WhatsApp. The WhatsApp group that was established as a response to Covid-19, was repurposed as an official Communications channel.

Everyone will agree that building projects appear to be at an all-time high. RERA had several engagements with owners, builders, or the authorities to ensure that developments do not deviate from title deeds and were in keeping with the natural environment. The water pipe replacement project was completed successfully, and road repairs took place. Hopefully, OM will consider the request for the "replacement of water pipes for other parts of Rooiels which are starting to see an upsurge in



broken pipes... RERA and REC have been working closely together and have shared efforts and expenses on the cost of baboon information attendants ... worked with the Overstrand Municipality to erect their baboon information signs.... The resident information packs have been compiled and are distributed as we learn of new residents. This helps them settle into the village and understand some of the challenges and opportunities of living here."

The agenda for the year was just too packed to give sufficient attention to the rework of the RERA Constitution. Volunteers submitted a comprehensive rewrite and received valuable input that will not go to waste. They have offered to restart the process when the time is right. With so many new villagers, it seemed important for people to settle in and for the submission to be workshopped widely to align the wishes of as many villagers as possible.

One thing is clear from the reading of the tireless efforts of dedicated individuals who, over many years, engaged on several levels (research, legal, environmental, etc.) to preserve the Rooiels we experience today: We must ensure that this work is continued and contribute new skills in these areas to work alongside

die lewe stroop jou soms tot slegs 'n fluistering en dan tot swye

HAIKOE DEUR GERARD SCHOLTZ

existing experts with the aim of one day being handed the baton. Rooiels benefits from a ratepayers' association that is guided by the Rooiels Vision and one that is safe from personal agendas.

If we could build a winners-podium for you all, the number-one position will be extremely crowded. Thank you!



THIS ARTICLE WAS COMPILED FROM NEWS IN BRIES/BREEZE EDITIONS FROM 1981 TO 2021 AND COMMENTARY WAS LIMITED TO CREATING A, HOPEFULLY READABLE (ALBEIT VERY LONG), STORYLINE THAT HIGHLIGHTS RECURRING THEMES.

Mailchimp

The Rooiels Associations make use of a mailing list system, called Mailchimp. Several settings in this system determine whether you will receive an email. It is not okay to send unsolicited emails. When people subscribe to the Rooiels mailings list system, some interests are set automatically. At the bottom of each email you will note three links: **why did I get this?, unsubscribe from this list, and update subscription preferences.** If you unsubscribe, you will receive NO FURTHER EMAILS until you resubscribe. No one can undo that setting on your behalf. It is better to update your subscription preferences where you can view your current preferences and select/unselect items that interest you.



To subscribe, go to:
<http://eepurl.com/hDA3kD>



Gevlekte katte van die Kogelberg



JEANNIE HAYWARD

DIERKUNDIGE EN CLT KOMMUNIKASIE
& MEDIABESTUURDER

Baie lesers van hierdie spesiale uitgawe van die Rooiels Bries is dalk bekend met die Cape Leopard Trust (CLT), siende dat ons al jare lank aktief is in die Kogelberg-streek. Die CLT is in 2004 in die hartjie van die Cederberg Wildernis gestig en doen sedert 2010 navorsing in die groter Bolandse bergreeks (BMC – Boland Mountain Chain).

Hierdie ruwe gebied, met sy hoë pieke en diep valleie, beslaan meer as 2500km² fynboshabitat vanaf noord van Bainskloof in die Limietbergreeks, suidwaarts deur die Hottentots-Holland en Groenlandberg tot by die kus by Rooiels en Bettiesbaai. Dit oorvleuel heel gepas ook met die UNESCO Kaapse Wynlande en Kogelberg Biosfeerreservate. Hoewel die kern van hierdie bergwildernis steeds relatief wild en ongetem is en 'n refugium vir luiperds verteenwoordig, word die periferie beïnvloed deur stedelike, semi-stedelike en landbou grondgebruik en infrastruktuur. Ten spyte van toenemende menslike druk oor die afgelope 400 jaar, het luiperds daarin geslaag om hier voort te bestaan danksy hul aanpasbaarheid en skuheid vir mense.

Luiperds is 'n uiters belangrike komponent van die Wes-Kaapse ekosisteem aangesien dit die rol van apeks of top-roofdier in hierdie stelsel vervul. Hulle dien as 'n sambreelspesie vir breër biodiversiteits bewaring, want bewarings-aksies wat gefokus is om luiperd populasies te beskerm (en daarmee saam dus ook hul prooi en habitat) sal outomaties ook ander spesies en ekosisteem prosesse bevoordeel. Luiperds in die Kaapse berge is egter uiters moeilik om te bestudeer aangesien hulle wydlopend is, hoofsaaklik naglewend, uiters ontwykend en ongelooflik aangepas om in hul fynboshabitat te kamoefleer. Slegs 'n handjievol mense is ooit gelukkig genoeg om een te

sien! Ons belangrikste stuk navorsing gereedskap is strik kameras (camera traps) – veld kameras wat afgesit word deur beweging en hitte – wat ons oor groot gebiede opstel. Dit dien as 24/7 veldwerkers, werk dag en nag, in reën of sonskyn. Hulle is nie-selektief en vang alles vas wat beweeg, en bied dus die ideale geleentheid om ook data oor ander diere in te samel.

Baie mense dink aan die berge van die Kogelberg en die groter BMC as leweloos. Afgesien van bobbejane, wys die dierelewe van hierdie streek hulself nie maklik nie. Baie spesies wat hier voorkom, is kripties, naglewend, klein of menssku. Ons kamera-opnames het ons egter 'n blik gegee op die diversiteit van diere in hierdie streek. Die Kogelberg is dalk wêreldbekend vir sy plant diversiteit, maar sy soogdier diversiteit moet ook gevier word! Sommige soogdierspesies wat ons hier aangeteken het, sluit in die slangmuishond, Kaapse vos, ratel, Hewitt se rooi klipkynyn, stinkmuishond, watermuishond, Kaapse otter en natuurlik die meer algemene grysbok, rooikat, ystervark, klipspringer, grootkol-muskelajaatkat en klein grysmuishond.

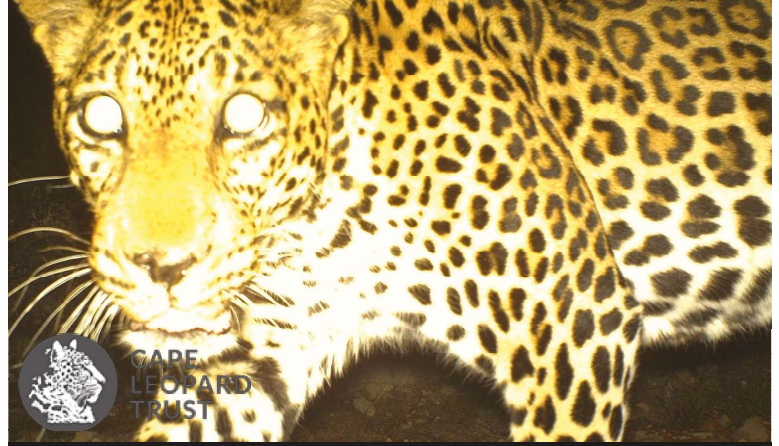
Die verskeidenheid dierefoto's is 'n baie aangename en bruikbare byproduk van hierdie grootskaalse kamera-opnames, maar die hoofdoel is om foto's van luiperds te verkry. Hierdie groot katte kan individueel geïdentifiseer word aan hul unieke rosetpatrone en die foto's dien as 'identikits'. Hierdie data word dan gebruik om die populasiedigtheid van luiperds in 'n gebied uit te werk. Vir die BMC kyk ons na ongeveer 1.7 luiperds per 100km². Soos oral in die Kaapse streek is dit 'n taamlieke lae digtheid – as in ag geneem word dat populasie digthede in die Savanna-bloom tussen 9-16 luiperds per 100km² kan wees.

Oor die jare het ons 'n aantal verskillende individuele luiperds geïdentifiseer wat die berge naby Rooiels besoek. Dit sluit in BM12 (Boland Mannetjie #12) oftewel Scott, BM32 (Rafiki), BF22 (Ruby), BM27 (Diego) en meer onlangs BM41 (Rover). Scott en Rafiki is lankal reeds uit die prentjie – uitgestoot deur Diego. Dit wil voorkom asof Rover tans besig is om van Diego se gebied oor te neem, maar die tyd sal leer. Hierdie katte het werklik massiewe tuisgebiede – Diego is byvoorbeeld 'n dominante volwasse mannetjie met 'n gebied wat strek vanaf die Helderberg kom, deur die Hottentots-Hollandberge en Groenlandberg af tot in die hele Kogelberg. Die CLT werk al jare lank saam met Rooiels en Pringlebaai se wildlewe kamera span, en ons bly baie dankbaar vir al hul ondersteuning en gees van samewerking in ons navorsings- en bewaringspogings!

Ongelukkig kan geen skryfstuk wat die natuurlewe van die Kogelberg vier, volledig wees sonder om ook

die bedreigings wat hierdie natuurlewe in die gesig staar, te noem nie. Een besonders vernietigende bedreiging wat ons hier wil uitlig, is die onwettige praktyk van strikke stel om wilde diere te vang. Strikke word gewoonlik geassosieer met bosveld, woud en savanna habitatte en nie soseer met fynbos nie, maar die CLT het gevind dat dit 'n algemene en ernstige gevaar vir die diere van die BMC (insluitend die Kogelberg) en regoor die Wes-Kaap is. Strikke is goedkoop en maklik om te stel en word dikwels nie nagegaan nie. Baie diere word dus gevang en dan eenvoudig daargelaat om te verrot. Dit maak van strikjak 'n besonder vernietigende en vermorsende jagmetode. Ons studies wys dat die diere wat die meeste in strikke gevang word, dieselfde spesies is wat die grootste persentasie biomassa tot luiperddieet bydra, wat beteken dat strikjak 'n direkte negatiewe invloed op die luiperdprooibasis het. Hoewel luiperds oor die algemeen nie geteiken word nie, is dit onvermydelik dat hulle ook gevang kan word. Hierdie versteekte en dodelike gevaar word versigtig in die onderbos weggesteek en is dikwels byna onsigbaar vir diere, totdat dit te laat is. Ons het meer voete en oë op die grond nodig om ons te help – so terwyl jy tyd in die natuur geniet, wees asseblief op die uitkyk vir onwettige strikke. Knip en verwyder hierdie strikke en rapporteer dit aan die CLT via ons aanlyn dataportaal (besoek app.capeleopard.org.za). Help om ons databasis uit te brei deur bewyse te deel van moontlike bedreigings vir diere, byvoorbeeld ander tipes lokvalle of rondloperhonde, en rapporteer ook enige ander veldtekens en waarnemings van luiperds. Die databasis verskaf informasie om bewaringsstrategieë daar te stel wat daarop gemik is om ons biodiversiteit teen hierdie bedreigings te beskerm.

In ons moderne era waar samelewings en ekonomieë heeltemal uit voeling geraak het met die natuur, is dit belangriker as ooit om ons natuurlike hulpbronne en natuurlewe te verstaan, te versorg en verstandig te bestuur. Dit is presies wat die Cape Leopard Trust hoop om in die Wes-Kaap en wyer te doen. 



FROM THE OUTREACH TEAM

Because sharing is caring

The Rooiels Outreach Trust was established with a primary focus on marginalised groups such as children, women, and the elderly. The Trust's registration as a Public Benefit Organisation meets the requirements of the South African Revenue Service.

In true community spirit, villagers continue to donate books and other items to the library and the Mandela box at the shop. Clothing, toys, and tinned food are collected in the Mandela box for Child Welfare. This project is ongoing, with a highlighted focus around Mandela Day in July.

We started the year with our "back-to-school" shoe project. This year children from the Kleinmond primary school were the recipients of brand-new school shoes, which we received from Bata directly, from Spar Kleinmond, and through donations from the Rooiels community.

The Overhills fire tragedy in February destroyed about 64 structures, displacing many families, and destroyed 30 children's school supplies and uniforms. With the help of Child Welfare, we provided each child with two uniforms and a pair of shoes.



Acres of land were affected, but thankfully there was no loss of human life. Firefighters and emergency personnel worked relentlessly to contain the fire. Outreach members and residents delivered first aid supplies and food to them. A big thank you to the Rooiels boat club for their generous donation. A golf day to raise funds for the firefighters was held at Kleinmond Golf course and the Outreach team was on hand to support the event.

House Madalitsho, a place of safety for babies also incurred damage during the fire. We were able to provide nappies and baby formula, made possible by donations from individuals and money from the Outreach Fund. A generous Rooiels resident put forward the funding for the replacement of House Madalitsho's security system, which was also damaged by the fire.

Two team members from the Overberg Netball Federation, Yomelela Gudu and Kutala Matinisi, were sponsored by Outreach. They continue to prove their worth in the Overhills netball team and took part in a tournament in Mossel bay recently, proudly representing their region. Both Yomelela and Kutala are key members of the community, encouraging young girls to take part in sports, improving positive self-worth and enhancing good values.

The Mighty African Stars soccer team from Kleinmond were bursting with pride when they received new soccer kit and training equipment in July. We are especially proud of this team as many of their players are longstanding members of the Rooiels community having worked in many of our gardens over the years.

The Lego project continues to be an enormous success. The support from “Care for Education” is ongoing and we are happy to announce more teachers have been trained in the use and application of the Lego blocks. We hope to expand the project into other schools enabling more learners to benefit from this project.

We were overwhelmed by the response of the community when Kleinmond Welfare put out a request for sanitary towels. A total of 67 packets were purchased. We acknowledge the struggle of young girls who must navigate their menstrual health under difficult conditions. We are sure that these donations are very welcome and appreciated.

At the end of July, we were able to donate thirty blankets to a marginalised group in the Overhills community. Peggy and Koti who are the secretary and chairperson of this community cluster were able to distribute these blankets to the most vulnerable.

Outreach funds are supplemented through the sale of donated items, and these funds are used for Outreach programs. Many items were donated to KAWS and Kidscan. Support for KAWS and Kidscan is ongoing, and we are happy to support them in the amazing work they do.


Coffee is supplied to the members of the Hangklip Community Care Centre on a regular basis. Rooiels residents also kindly donate vegetables and even assist in the kitchen from time to time.

Four Rooiels residents are also supported in various ways, be it meals, clothing, medical or general assistance.

Outreach has supported Brigadoon, a Dementia and Alzheimer’s care facility in Betty’s Bay, with coffee from time to time and gifted the 26 patients with a small Christmas hamper.

Our Rooiels Santa project involves making up hampers for the approximately 28 children who are kept safe at the orphanage in Kleinmond.

In July, we treated the R44 maintenance team to a hearty breakfast. Their continued work on our roads does not go unnoticed and we are grateful for their contribution to our safety.

The wine auction in September was a huge success with wine donations received from many local supporters. The beautiful cake made by Sonet van der Merwe was auctioned off several times, and in the end, the cake was donated to Kidscan. 



A BIG THANK YOU AND APPRECIATION FOR ALL THE KIND DONATIONS AND SUPPORT DURING 2022.

ROOIELS OUTREACH TRUST TEAM



JOHN BIESMAN-SIMONS



In keeping with the 50th-anniversary theme, we revisit a little Rooiels Boat Club (REBC) history. Of course, this will include some content from previous editions of the Breeze.

Up until 1990, the Rooiels slipway was open to everyone – literally a free-for-all. Trailers were parked on the beach and it was chaos. The authorities intervened and said they would close the road access unless the Rooiels community managed the area. In 1991, the boom was installed, and Rooiels residents and ten regular outsiders could pay for access to the slipway. The concept of a boat club was born.

I cannot recall exactly how we managed it in the interim period between 1991 and 1995 when the Rooiels Boat Club formally became a club, institutionalised with its own constitution, under the leadership of Diarmuid “Gus” Baigrie and supported by old salts such as the late Albie Stals and Andries Brink. So, in my mind, the club has operated, albeit unofficially since 1991 and I still have the slipway access licence on our boat.



Skipper forwards a couple of decades, and in around 2012, the club had to register as a taxpayer. The more important stuff must have bored SARS. Be that as it may, we were now properly official.

THE NATIONAL SEA RESCUE INSTITUTE (NSRI)

As a long-term supporter of the NSRI by way of annual donations, I proposed that we rather enter the annual lucky draw competition for two Pajero SUVs. One year our number came up as one of the ten finalists. The late Basil Moss, the committee chair at the time, attended the draw. Each finalist received a key and had a turn to try unlocking the car. None of the keys worked, so the finalists all tried again. Basil must have put the key in upside down the first time around because it worked on the re-run and the REBC almost became the proud owner of the two vehicles. However, as many know, we settled on taking a cash alternative.

We have been able to make many donations, the biggest beneficiary of them being the NSRI itself. We currently buy 13 tickets for the annual competition in the hope that lightning will strike twice. We have also sponsored equipment worth over R100 000 and recently donated three “pink buoys” around the Rooiels coastline, with more being installed shortly.

CRAYFISH COMPETITION

In the early days of the REBC, crayfishing was allowed from 15 November till Easter Monday each season ($\pm 4\frac{1}{2}$ months). About ten years ago, the season was reduced by more than 50% from 15 November, as well as Easter weekend, to 15 January, and then again to about 25 days per year. For the last few years, it has been a measly 12 days, of which typically a third is lost to inclement weather.

The dates for this season are the 16th, 17th, 24th, and the 26th to 31st December 2022, 1 January 2023, and then again on 8 and 9 April 2023.

The annual “kreef” competition (except for lockdown periods because of Covid-19) is a highlight for the club as it carries with it bragging rights for the victors. René Ryke, Heidi Andersson’s brother, was the first crayfish king to win twice. Since then, Willie Rossouw and Derek Esterhuyse have been habitual winners and the Stals brothers have not fared too badly themselves. On bragging rights, the current club chair and author of this article and fellow club member, Hilgard Muller, have the record for the heaviest kreef caught in the history of the competition, at 0.91kg. A sad statistic is that the winning weights in all the categories for the last 3 years have set new records as being the lowest ever.

Over the years we have had some

amazing sponsors of the event, but the one who deserves special mention is Western Province Catering, which is owned by club-member Kevin Douglas, himself a proud past crayfish king. René Ryke overshadowed his brother-in-law, Kevin Andersson's, achievements until finally one year, Kevin emerged victorious, only to then be unable to stay for the weigh-in. His daughter, Monique, proudly accepted the trophy on his behalf.



Their boat also won the biggest-eight on the day, which excluded the king crayfish in terms of the rules.

Another committee member, Mark Butler, has also won the coveted title. Vicious rumours of the competition being fixed are doing the rounds now that three of the four committee members have won the title. We are confident that

our new committee member, Geoff Titley, will be trying his best to squash that rumour by not winning. That should not be too difficult, given his recent display of truly peculiar boating skills. Also, he won't be in Rooiels anyway.

The competition will be held on Wednesday 28 December, with Thursday, the 29th or Friday, the 30th as reserve days if the weather does not play along. The event is a fun day, and the "post-match" celebration is open to everyone. We are planning a bumper festive program this year, with a spit-braai.

SAFETY SURVEY

Safety is top of mind when you are playing in the sea. All boats above a certain size are required by law to have a safety survey once a year, which is arranged by the club. The survey was held during lockdown, but without the appropriate refreshments being served. Fortunately, that returned this year, and the survey was hosted at the Butler's house. The day coincided with a hack-day, so we invited the hackers to join us for the braai and drinks.

There was a problem at this year's survey. The surveyor did not arrive. He had sent messages saying he was on his way, so we were getting



worried and sent out a search party. A group of unruly members had highjacked the surveyor on his way to the Butlers' to do their boats first. These same members got a frosty reception when they arrived demanding refreshments.



In 2021, the safety check took on a new dimension when the Boltmann brothers literally jumped to the aid of two individuals who had been swept off the rocks. Without their assistance, there is little chance the two would have survived. Once again, thank you so much, you brave young men. (See Breeze 2021, page12 for details and pictures.)

West Coast Rock Lobster (WCRL/Crayfish) dates 2022/2023:

- 16-17 December 2022 (2 days)
- 24 December 2022 (1 day)
- 26 December 2022 to 1 January 2023 (7 days)
- 8-9 April 2023 (2 days)



Persons over 12 (twelve) may obtain a recreational fishing permit, allowing fishing, collecting, keeping, controlling, landing, transporting of, or possession of not more than four (4) WCRL per day. WCRL may be caught between 08h00 and 16h00 daily and the bag limit is eighty (80) millimetres of carapace length. They must be transported in a whole state.

MEMBERSHIP

The club was extremely popular in its early days and, according to records, stood at 67 members in the 2010/11 season. The following year it stood at 55 and has dropped steadily in recent years because of the shorter season. Last season, partly due to Covid-19, membership dropped by another nine, and is now at 31 members.

We have an aspiring new member, young Regardt Stals, son of club member, Wimpie.

It is worth mentioning that we have club members that are in the medical profession. The story goes that Dr Charlie Simonsz performed an intricate operation by inserting sinkers into his (small) kreef to increase their weight. This year, the medics threw us a curveball. Dr Keith Brice's boat failed the safety survey. Why? His medical kit expired. Gasp!

Piet Uys and the late Dick Lockley were awarded life membership for services to the club and more recently non-member, Wolf Steinbach, has helped the club in various capacities, not least braaiing at the safety survey day. He will be taking over as the Competition Master. Griet helps us with the issuing of keys and decals from the RESA office. The club is grateful to all for their dedicated service.

DONATIONS

The REBC is proud that they have been able to make various donations over the years, amounting to hundreds of thousands, including:

- NSRI – being by far our biggest beneficiary
- RERA directly, and via them, paying for the printing of the Breeze
- REC
- RESA
- Firefighting equipment for the village
- Covid-19 relief funding
- Rooiels Outreach (Kleinmond firefighters)
- Overstrand Child and Youth Centre



Wimpie and dad, Albie (blue cap)

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Many of our members, past and present, have served on the committee. Far too many to mention but a special thanks must go to Gus for getting us up and running and to Basil for trying his key twice. We would not be where we are if it wasn't for the valuable contributions. Thanks to all who have done their bit over the years.



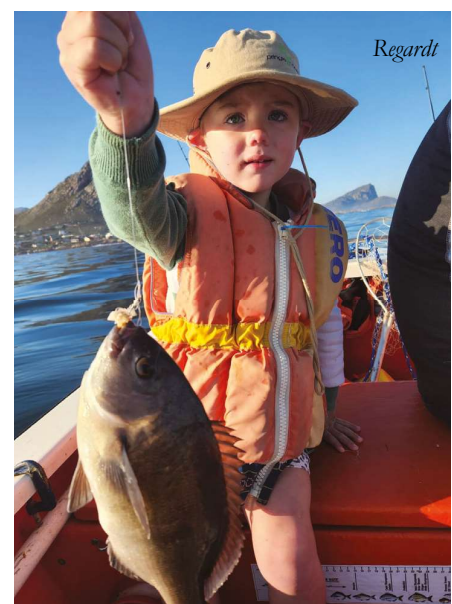
GAAN VISVANG

Wimpie Stals, die staatmaker met 'n hart van goud en 'n vraag roomyse, biblioteekboeke, en 'n groot verskeidenheid kruidenerware en vars produkte, kom al van kleins af Rooiels toe.

Sy ouers het in 1988 hier gekoop. In 1991 het Wimpie pas vyf geword toe hy saam met sy Pa, Albie Stals, op sy eerste bootrit uitgegaan het om vis te vang. Albie is die man aan die regterkant met die blou pet. En nou, in Augustus 2022, spog Wimpie se seun Regardt, vier jaar oud, in Wimpie se boot langs die kus van Rooiels met sy eerste vis – 'n kurper (bronze bream).



Wimpie and Regardt



Regardt

FROM BREEZE,
SUMMER 2006
(with slight edits)



“Always carry a flagon of whiskey in case of snake bite and furthermore always carry a small snake.”

WC Fields

Snakes must be among the most misunderstood and unfairly treated of all creatures. Although they fulfil a most important role in their natural environment, unfortunately, they are regarded by many as a threat that should be killed. The balance of nature would be severely upset without any control of the population of rats, mice, and other pests. As a result, many harmless, non-venomous snakes are indiscriminately destroyed.

Although it would be foolhardy to regard any snake with contempt, the threat of death from snakebite should be put firmly in perspective. In the whole of South Africa, less than 20 people per year die from snakebite, with most fatalities occurring in Northern Zululand. By comparison, over 200 people are struck dead by lightning every year, 10 000 people die in the carnage on our roads, and 29 000 die because of smoking-related diseases.

There are some 23 snake species in the Cape Peninsula, of which only five are dangerous.

In the Cape, the puff adder, berg adder, cape cobra, rinkhals, and boomslang need to be given a wide berth.

The puff adder is probably the most widespread snake in Africa. In Southern Africa, it may be found in most areas, but it avoids extreme desert conditions, dense forests, and altitudes above 2000 metres. The venom causes severe

pain, swelling in the bitten limb, haemorrhages, and nausea. Most times a puff adder will bite the prey and release it to avoid personal injury, but if the animal is small, they will hang onto it.

Puff adders tend to become active at dusk, although they may bask and move along during the day.

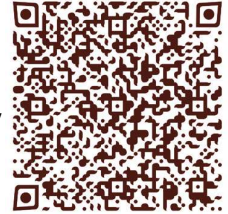
This snake is ovoviviparous, which means that it reproduces by retaining the eggs with the developing foetus until full term.

Puff adders have large triangular heads with chevron markings that extend down the body. It is a very heavy-bodied snake that will lie in paths when basking, very seldom moving out of the way when approached. This is the most prevalent reason for human bites. The puff adder accounts for about 60% of serious snakebites in Southern Africa. They have an extremely fast strike.

It is an easily excitable snake that will hiss or puff loudly when disturbed. Should this warning not be heeded, they will recoil, dropping the chin, ready to strike out. If someone is bitten by a suspected venomous snake, remember to stay calm, try and identify the snake responsible for the bite,

and rush the victim to the nearest available medical facility.

Advice on all cases of envenomation (snakes, spiders, scorpions, bees, etc.) is available from the

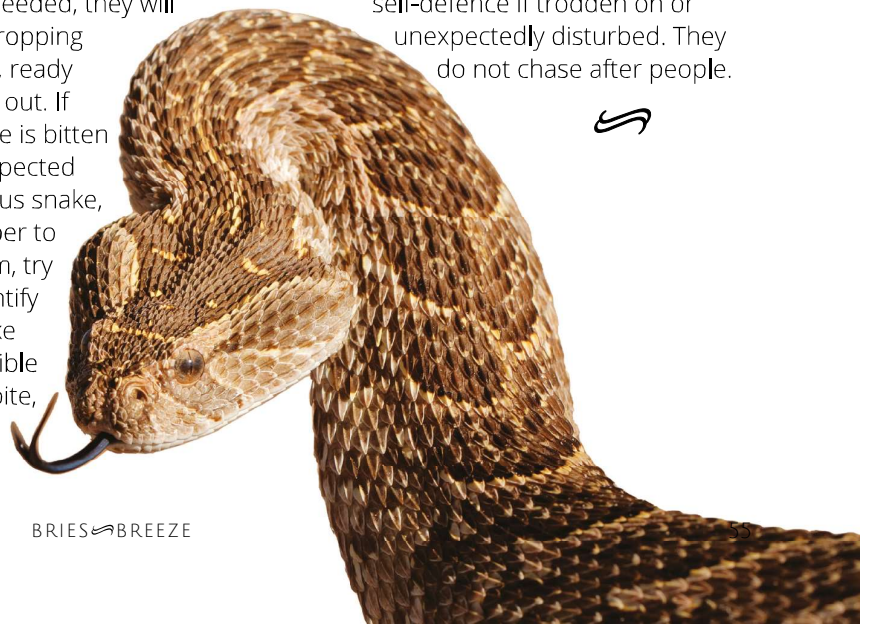


Poisons Information Helpline of the Western Cape all-hours emergency number, which is 0861 555 777.

Snakes do not attack humans under normal conditions and when encountered they are usually the first to move away and seek shelter. The preferred way to handle this situation is to have the snake removed from the premises by qualified persons and released in the nearest suitable area.

A few fallacies about snakes:

- Snakes do not travel in pairs. They are loners and only pair off briefly to mate.
- Snakes do not hypnotise their prey.
- Snakes are not deliberately aggressive. They strike in self-defence if trodden on or unexpectedly disturbed. They do not chase after people.



THANK YOU, ROOIELS

A tribute to your generosity



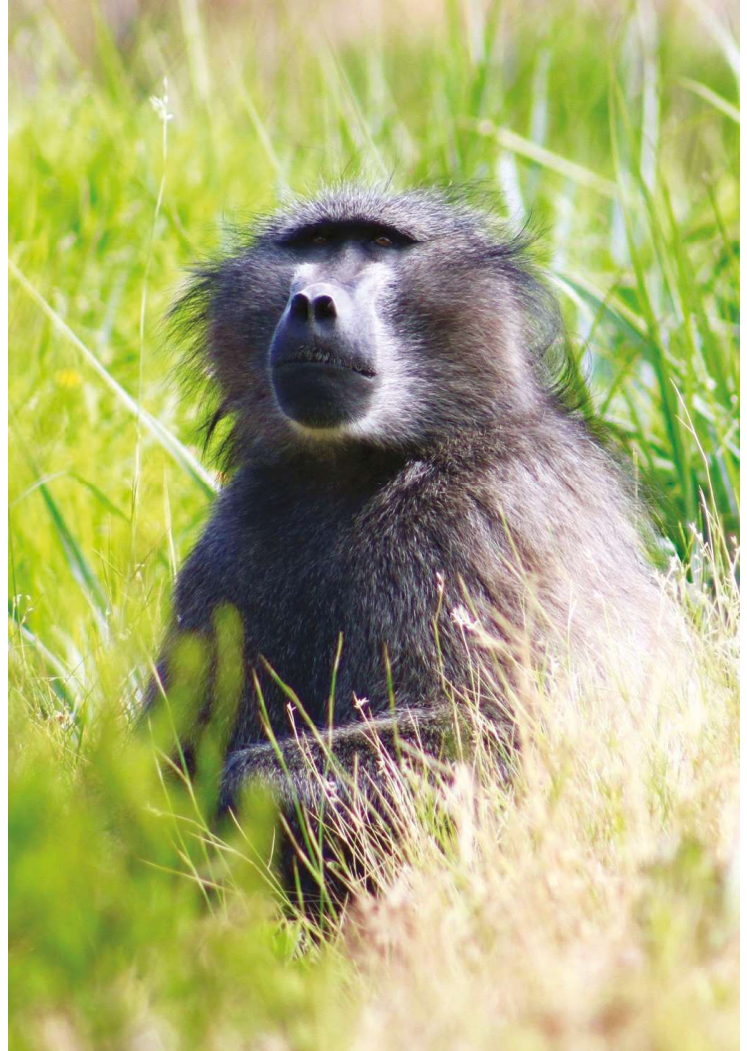
KAELIN DELONG

I lived in Rooiels between 2017 and 2018. I moved here from the USA to be Joselyn Mormile’s baboon research assistant – my first job after university! I was 23 years old and had just finished my bachelor’s degree in biological anthropology, which is the study of primate behaviour, ecology, and evolution.

I had originally hoped to study a more glamorous primate species, like chimpanzees. I fantasized that my days in Africa would be spent bushwhacking through dense, remote rainforests, and my evenings spent in a small canvas tent, hunched over a flickering candle while handwriting my notes from the day. Instead, my days were mostly filled with getting baboons out of people’s houses and cleaning up improperly closed trash bins. My evenings were spent at the Drummond Arms. Rooiels was not what I expected. It was even better.

The community spirit in Rooiels won me over right away. Being one of the village’s youngest residents, many kind people took me (and Joselyn) under their wing and became surrogate parents. I’ve never experienced such kindness and generosity, before or since. Baboons quickly became my all-time favourite species of primate. As one of the largest and smartest species of monkeys, I was immediately captivated by the complexity of their behaviour and social lives. Like us, baboons have friends and prefer to spend time with their close family members. Fathers are extremely protective of their children. And anyone who has spent even 30 minutes with baboons knows how entertaining and adorable the babies can be.

After I left Rooiels, I moved to the Karoo to study vervet monkeys. They were fun but a bit underwhelming compared with baboons. Baboons are just special. I also missed the daily social



interactions I had in Rooiels – One of my favourite parts of any day here was teaching people about our baboons. I enjoyed communicating with the public so much that I decided to pursue a master’s degree in science communication! Science communication is a relatively new field that aims to identify the best strategies for communicating scientific information to different groups. It’s very relevant for human-wildlife interaction and management research.

It’s such a privilege to come back to Rooiels four years later. I’ve seen so many familiar faces, both human and baboon. Ex-alpha male Cliff is still here, albeit now an old man without teeth, as well as alpha female Regina and three of her daughters. My two favourite baboons, Indy and Amie, are still around and now have two sons together in a sort of “splinter” troop¹. Another exciting piece of news is the arrival of Neugene, the new alpha male who displaced Benji in August 2022. Since Neugene came from a different troop, he brings some critical “new genes” to the Rooiels baboons.

“Education is the most powerful tool to change the world”
Nelson Mandela

¹ Alfie, almost two years old, was hit by a vehicle on Saturday, 5 November 2022 and had to be captured and euthanised two days later. Andie, a few months old, was killed by a dog on Sunday, 13 November 2022. Indie suffered a severe head injury while trying to protect his son and it appears as if his wounds are healing well.



On my visit back to Rooiels I've been pleased to observe that not much has changed. There are a few new restaurants and houses, as well as some new signs educating visitors about the wildlife. It also seems to me that waste management has improved! Most houses have baboon-proof bins which are properly secured. A lot of research has been done on human-wildlife interaction (including Joselyn's PhD, of course!), and all of it suggests that the most effective way to coexist with wild animals is to restrict access to human food sources and educate as many people as possible. Not to say that education is easy – it certainly is not!

I have the utmost respect for all those in Rooiels who dedicate their lives to wildlife and nature education. It is a never-ending, sometimes exhausting, often thankless task.

SO, FROM ME AT LEAST,
THANK YOU!

The Rooiels baboon troop has been consistently studied for over five years now, and even longer if you include the first baboon survey conducted by Jenny Stark back in 2001.

It is incredibly rare to have such long-term data on an individually identified troop. The scientific value of this data is priceless –


it can answer questions about social behaviour, group structural dynamics, long-term health outcomes, genetics, behavioural responses to land use change by humans, and much, much more. The longer the data is collected, the more valuable the entire dataset becomes. So please protect and keep observing these baboons! Rooiels is a truly exemplary model for the power of citizen science.

Despite the increase of residents and tourists in Rooiels over the past five years, I'm very happy to observe that the baboons' general behaviour has remained the same. It's not uncommon to hear the claim that, "the baboons are getting worse!" This has been claimed by various people over the past 30 years, but there is no scientific evidence to suggest a drastic change in the baboons' behaviour. I suspect this is related to the increase in wildlife signage, better education of new residents, and improved waste management.

What makes me most happy are not these changes in Rooiels but how much has remained the same.

It's human nature to crave change and progress, which is why it's difficult to take a step back and realize that something close to perfection has already been achieved. What is needed in Rooiels now is not innovation, but preservation.

Rooiels is likely the only place in the entire world harmonizing with baboons in this way. This village has been developing incredible education programs for decades, mainly from passionate citizen scientists. My master's program in science communication emphasized that some of the most effective education happens informally: over a glass of Chenin Blanc, or during a quick chat with your neighbour. I would encourage you all to keep these conversations going. They just might preserve the unique beauty of Rooiels for another 50 years.

The lessons I learned from the people and baboons of Rooiels will remain with me for the rest of my life. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart, and I trust that you will use your vast knowledge, experience, and passion to ensure this little corner of the Earth remains a haven for humans and baboons alike. 





Something *Els*

Art Gallery

ZANDRA LABUSCHAGNE

Dis skrikwekkend om 'n plek te verlaat wat vir 44 jaar jou tuiste was om te kom bly in "die provinsie waar ek grootgeword het en op 14-jarige ouderdom saam met my ouers moes vertrek". Om 'n kunsgalery in 'n klein "gehuggie" te begin, soos sommige inwoners liefdevol daarna verwys, is..... wel, MAL! Maar grote griet, dit was pret!

Ek het net betyds in Rooiels aangekom vir die 2021 BREEZE/ BRIES, en ek was verheug om plaaslike kunstenaars David van der Merwe, Rix Wellmann, Lee-Ann Ormandy-Becker en Erna Pienaar te ontmoet. Erna het daarna na Gordonsbaai verhuis. Ek het gou agtergekom dat Rooiels die tuiste is van uitstaande kunstenaars, soos wat ek van hulle een vir een ontmoet het.

Teen die einde van Maart 2022 het die galery die Rooiels Markdag gereël om die Galery bekend te stel en inwoners en besoekers die geleentheid te gee om die gasvryheid, verskeidenheid en gehalte van kookkuns deur die Rooiels-restaurante te ervaar. Almal in die dorpsentrum het hul "alles" gegee om 'n sukses van die dag te maak. Die motors het letterlik tougestaan en ons kon nie meer tevrede wees met die uitslag nie.

Die Local Artists Easter Exhibition het werk deur Paula Tetluk, Mornay Viljoen, Rix, Lee-Ann, Jennifer Dewey, Alison Scott en Ivan Becker

uitgestal en die reaksie was oorweldigend.

Toe kom die winter! En ek het 'n ander plan bedink om die somer af te skop en te spog met ons kunstenaars aan die ander kant van die baai. In samewerking met Art Routes (Strand Kunshuis) het ons 'n bus gereël om kunsliefhebbers van Helderberg na Overstrand te bring. 16 kunstenaars van Rooiels en Pringlebaai het deelgeneem, met hul wonderlike werk uitgestal en skouers geskuur met besoekers by òf hul eie ateljees, by Something Els-kunsgalery òf by die Pringlebaai-opwipkunsgalery. Ek was bly om John Charalambous en Robert Miller te verwelkom met hul fotografiebydraes, en Mary Comrie wat vrygewig een van haar delikate origamis geskenk het om by ons galery vertoon te word.

Die Rooiels-dorpsentrum is 'n droombestemming vir enige kuns kunsliefhebber. Kuns word vertoon by Gossip Corner, wat die kunswerk van die Pacaltsdorpse kunstenaar Kevin van Niekerk aanbied, terwyl Drummond Arms gasheer is vir John se fotografie-uitstalling "Washed out by the Ocean", en Something Els-kunsgalery. Ons sake-eienaars se insig in wat vir hul kliënte sal werk, is in die kol. Dankie aan almal wat my hierdie geleentheid gebied het.


Ten tyde van die skryf hiervan het Something Els-kunsgalery altesaam 84 kunswerke en

MARY COMRIE

These paper cranes are folded in memory of Sadako, a little Japanese girl who was born in Hiroshima at the time of the atomic bomb. When she was eleven she developed leukaemia. According to legend in Japan, if you folded a thousand paper cranes, your wish would be granted. During her time in the hospital, her friends brought her all their scrap paper and she managed to fold 644 cranes before she died in October 1955. Her friends made up the rest and she was buried with them. Eventually, a statue was built to honour her bravery and all those who died because of the bomb. Every year, on the anniversary of her death, thousands of people bring their paper cranes and lay them around her statue. Whenever we fold these little birds, we do so as a prayer for peace, transcendence and transformation.

foto's vertoon waarvan 54 deur Rooiels-, Pringlebaai- en Bettysbaai-kunstenaars is. Ons galerybesoekers spreek hul verbasing, bewondering en waardering uit vir die talentvolle en diverse kuns van die kunstenaars in ons drie dorpe. Ek bars van trots vir ons nederige galery. Skrikwekkend en mal het omgesit in absolute vreugde!

'n Spesiale vermelding en dank aan Catherine de Villiers, Robyn Simmons en Thea Burger van Bettysbaai, en Monique Day-Wilde, Doreen Hemp, Cornelia Stoop en Willem Stiglingh van Pringlebaai. Ek waardeer hul ondersteuning vanaf die openingsdag, tot by die Art Route-projek.

'n Galery kan net wonderlik wees met puik kunswerke en Rooiels-kunstenaars rock! Geniet hierdie klein keur! 

LOCAL ARTISTS

PAULA TETLUK

I see art as an expression of what one sees and how one feels in terms of their surroundings. I am inspired by the energy, emotion and textures of everything I encounter, thus art gives me the ability to truly see. I choose to listen to the whispers of daily life that others may overlook and present it in a way that connects with people. This is "Abstract Proteas"



JENNIFER DEWEY

I am inspired by pattern and design and love mismatched cups and saucers. In a world full of problems, it is important to find joy in the little things and this represents little "pops" of happiness.

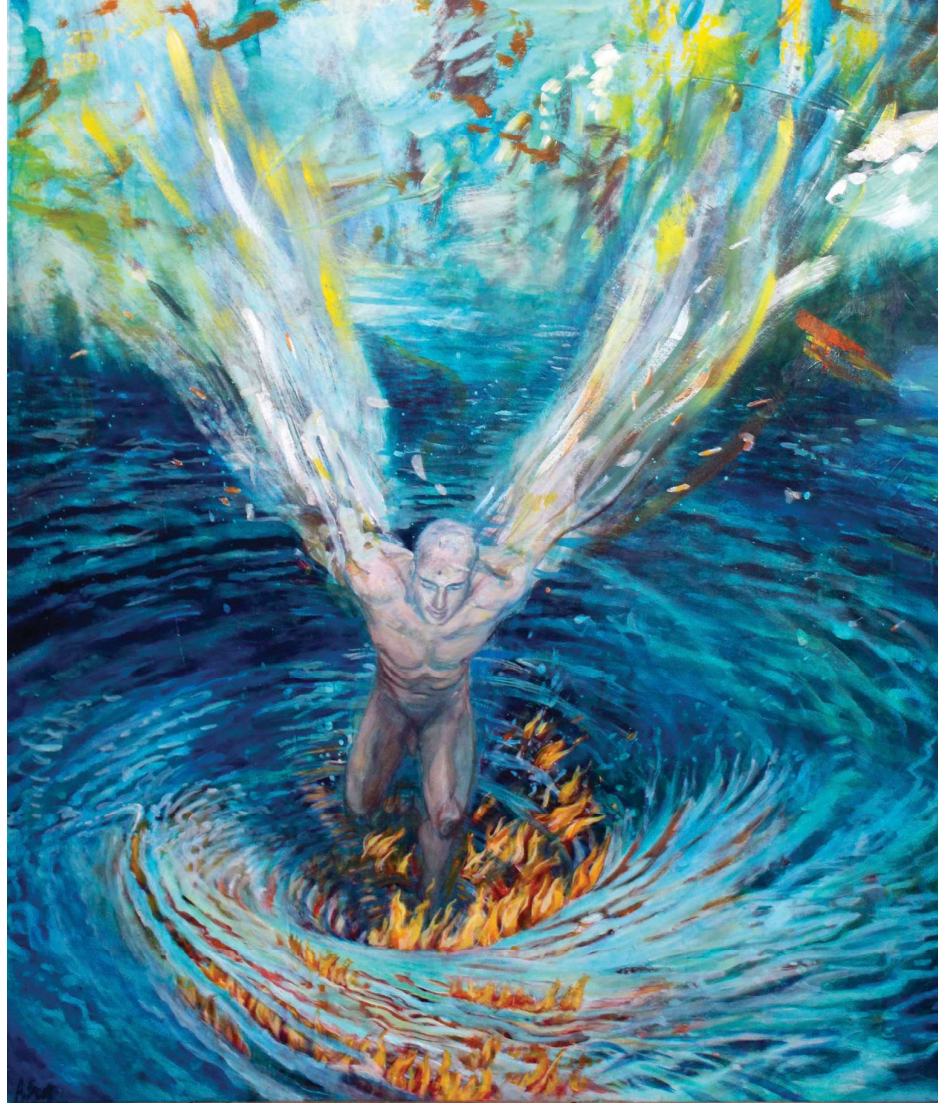


ALISON SCOTT

The expression of Spirit is at the core of my artwork, and the narratives that develop during the painting process direct the result.

“Icarus Victorious”

The story of Icarus is well known, but his triumph stems from a father’s wish to see his son’s valiant spirit surpass the flames of the sun to reach the heavenly realm.



ROBERT MILLER

Photograph on page 3

Robert has 26 years of experience in panoramic photography and has developed a unique eye for the perfect angle, lighting, and natural conditions. His photographs are easily recognisable for their unique look. Preferring the golden hour, these days Robert mostly takes panoramas for his own pleasure, with his works being sought-after across the world.

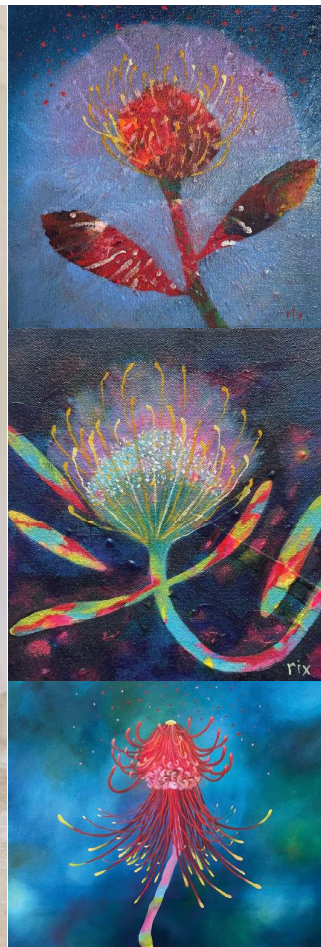


RIX WELLMANN

My art is a visual language that helps me understand the world we live in.

It is, without a doubt, one of the tools in life that keep me grounded and yet attached to the nature of what is.

My “Funtastical Fynbos” paintings are a joyful depiction of our unique fynbos. Each painting presents to the viewer a world of imagination and playfulness.



LOCAL ARTISTS

LEE-ANN ORMANDY-BECKER

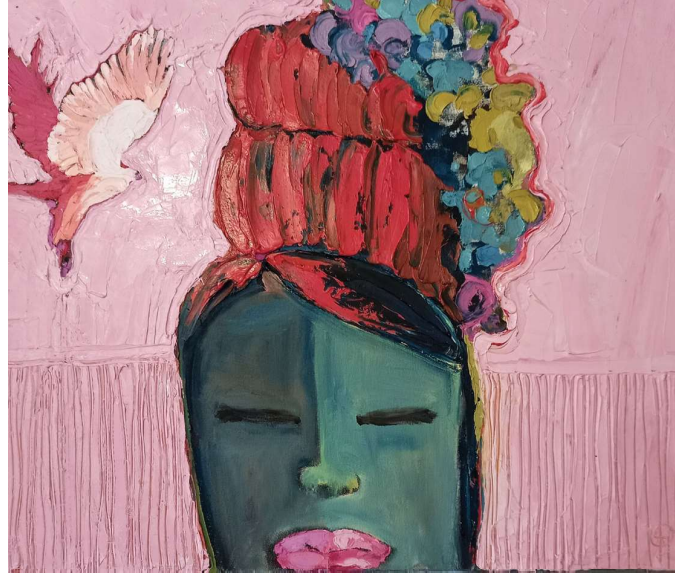
AMATERASU reflects my fascination with the art of storytelling and mythology. Both open an invisible door and lead to a myriad of possibilities when putting paint on canvas.

While AMATERASU is a Japanese mythological Sun goddess who embodies the qualities of illumination, order, justice, harmony, and balance, she represents an unconscious energy that weaves its way through all our lives just as the thick impasto paint pushes and shoves its way across the canvas, changing the dynamic as the different paint marks encounter each other.

The meeting of the conscious and unconscious always has an impact on our daily life.

EBA is a continuation of the mythological story, but she is a real heroine. Having been trained to detect certain smells, she is an invaluable part of the research team trying to understand all aspects of whales and man's impact on the environment. She may be one tiny part of the whole but the impact of her sensory gift on our understanding of the hidden dynamics of our world is enormous.

This painting is a salute to EBA and the many unsung heroes who work behind the scenes, as does the unconscious, quietly changing our world.



IVAN BECKER

Ivan is not a stranger to Rooielsers: as a treasurer of RERA for many years, for his contribution to the environment by being an active member of the hacking team, and for his involvement in the Rooiels Outreach. Many may not know that Ivan is also a gifted artist! Following a career in the corporate world, Ivan now spends a lot more time with his artwork. Painting with oil, Ivan's artwork sometimes has a surrealistic edge with dream-like scenes and symbolic images, finding inspiration in the unexpected and the uncanny, that can be found in the environment.

Juxtaposing his surreal paintings, Ivan also enjoys painting still-life which sharpens his attention to detail. Ivan shares a studio in Rooiels with his wife Lee-Ann.





In Memoriam

“I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service ...”



QUEEN ELIZABETH II
1926 – 2022



Queen Elizabeth, Britain's longest-reigning monarch and the nation's figurehead for seven decades, died on Thursday, 9 September 2022.

People the world over mourned her death and it is said that in a complicated world, her steady grace and resolve brought comfort to many. In Cape Town, on her twenty-first birthday, 21 April 1947, the then Princess Elizabeth made a solemn act of dedication and vowed to devote her whole life to the service of her people.

Her adult life began around the same time as Rooiels was declared a township and over the years, people in Rooiels have devoted uncounted hours towards nurturing the natural heritage of our village.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, marking seventy years of service, took place in 2022 and was partially the inspiration for this celebratory edition of the Breeze. Little did we know, that 2022 – the year in which some semblance returned to the world – would also include such a sombre episode.

Over the same period, our Rooiels 'family' has also had to bid a sad goodbye to several much-loved residents. We hold the loved ones of these dear departed friends in our thoughts.



RICHARD 'DICK' LOCKLEY
4 APRIL 2022

Dick lit up the village – he was gregarious, always with a big smile for all he met, and he loved Rooiels. Dick and Jill bought a holiday home here in 1982 and became full-time residents in 2002. Since then, they have been very active, supporting nature and the village. Dick loved the outdoors, catching kreef from their canoe in the days when you could go out often. He hiked, rode bikes, and played golf. He was active in both RERA and REC and led the Hack for many years. Richard 'Dick' Lockley, originally from Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), was a Sandhurst graduate and a retired army Colonel. In South Africa, he had a successful career with Southern Life before retiring to live here. Rooiels was his passion, but Dick also loved travel and was fascinated with the underwater world. We will miss his

lust for life, his caring, open joy, and his love of nature. Our heartfelt sympathies go to Jill and to Robert, James, and their families.

Kay Leresche



WARNU STEENKAMP
9 APRIL 2022

Warno Steenkamp was 'n man met 'n groot hart, altyd gereed met 'n glimlag! Sy liefde vir Rooiels en sy gesin was kenmerkend van sy daaglikse bestaan. Saans het hy jou telkens verras met 'n lag wat teen die berg afrol.

Warno en Frieda – Frieda is in 2021 oorlede – ons mis julle albei, maar die mooi herinneringe sal in ons harte voortleef.

Miskien, as jy aandagtig luister, jy sal steeds die eggo van Warno se lag deur die fynbos hoor.

Marina du Plessis



DUNCAN HILES
2 JUNE 2022

Duncan Hiles passed away after a battle with Parkinson's disease. He and Linda left Rooiels in 2021 to settle into their new home at Heritage Manor in Somerset West after many happy years of living in Rooiels as permanent residents. Their association with Rooiels goes back much further, as they built their Rooiels house long before finally leaving Durban to make this their home. Duncan was a very active participant in many spheres of Rooiels life and he was a regular participant of the hack group and was actively involved in establishing the wildlife cameras. He and Linda were keen paddle ski crayfishers and he was a founding RESA Ops Comm member where he made a considerable contribution to setting up the office. He was also a very keen hiker and loved being in the mountains. Duncan graduated from Stellenbosch University with an engineering degree and also completed an MBA. He was an incredibly well-read person with an amazing level of knowledge about many things. Duncan had a good sense of humour and I am sure there are many Rooielsers who will remember his mischievous smile after making a telling observation. Duncan loved living in Rooiels and contributed much to the village. We remember him fondly and extend our best wishes to Linda and their family.

Mark Butler



DAVID BLAINE
6 JUNE 2022

David Blaine died peacefully at the age of 94. He had owned a cottage in Rooiels since 1985.

He spent his last few years permanently at Rooiels in the care of his daughter and enjoyed sitting on the stoep appreciating the wildlife and taking in the beautiful sunsets. May he rest in peace.

Mandy Prichard



MICHAEL HARRISON
21 SEPTEMBER 2022

Right to the end Michael Harrison personified much of what Rooiels was about. Throughout his more than 30 years of living on the smallholding adjoining Rooiels, he fiercely and steadfastly protected all that was unspoilt and undeveloped. He played a major role in the court

case that set aside the subdivision into even of our iconic Klein Hangklip. He served on RERA and the Federation of Ratepayers' Association for many years. As a retired aeronautical engineer, he was invaluable in analysing the fine print.

Michael always took Rooiels on its own terms - and loved it. The baboons, the wind, the bad roads, the remoteness, the fynbos, the night skies... Someone once asked him "But what do you do with a place like this?" "Enjoy it!" was his reply.

Breeze, 2015: Michael's Seven Wonders of Rooiels

1. A baboon's coat shimmering in the sun as the wind softly plays through it
2. The great rock plinth on erf 324
3. The eagles soaring over Klein Hangklip
4. The rare and beautiful Diastella flowers along the slopes of Klein Hangklip
5. The whistling and calling of the otters in the deep of the night
6. Walking through the village by starlight, without being blinded by glaring street and house lights
7. Phosphorescence playing on the waves at night with the upwelling of the warm currents in Spring

May Michael's spirit live on through all of us in Rooiels. We will honour and remember him when we lift our glasses to that illusive green flash at sunset.

Estelle Raymond



An Memoriam



HETTIE CLAASSENS
11 NOVEMBER 2022

Hettie is al die Groot-Hertogin, Countess, en die Grande Dame van Rooiels genoem. En nou is Hettie van Blennastraat weg. Sag en stil soos sy was en soos sy dit wou gehad het, met haar geliefde versorger, Martha, en Anuta en Kay wat die laaste ure langs haar bed gesit het.

Hettie sal onthou word vir haar belesenheid, diep en betekenisvolle gesprekke, haar wysheid, en haar onselfsugtige diens aan Rooiels. Met die instroom van medelye was dit duidelik dat sy diep spore in Rooiels getrap het en dat haar nalatenskap duidelik is. Sy het nie geskroom om haar hande vuil te maak nie in die jare toe sy elke week die vullis-oorlaaistatie skoongemaak het. Sy sal ook bekend staan as die een wat die dorpstuine begin het toe daar nog 'n telefoonhokkie en 'n inligtingsbord in die dorp was. Destyds.

Haar liefde vir fynbos is weerspieël in haar tuin wat sy so natuurlik en Rooiels-inheems as moontlik gehou het. Dit is ook waar sy op haar gelukkigste was, tussen haar plante en al die diere wat haar tuin besoek het – haar swerm fisante het op die uur opgedaag vir hulle mielies. Sy het geëerd gevoel wanneer die bobbejane in haar tuin kom kos soek en veral wanneer die kleintjies haar deur haar venster dophou toe sy later bedlêend was.

Haar huis was, toe sy nog kon, die sosiale middelpunt, met silwer en gestyfte servette. Sy was die fynkunskok van Rooiels, maar het ook vir baie jare gourmet toebroodjies vir die honger kapspan voorgesit. Altyd uit haar hart en in groot styl. Hettie, jy het weggegaan en ons sal jou as 'n koningin in ons harte onthou.

PLANT TAXONOMY

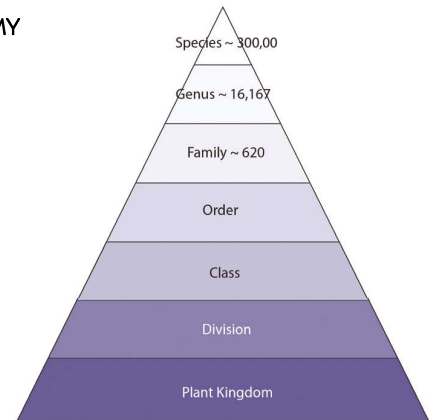


Figure 2. Plant kingdom contains all the known plants, approximately 300 000 plant species. As plants are classified into divisions, classes, orders, families, and genera more specific groupings of plants are found until each plant is specifically named.

It was way back in the 1700s that Carl Linnaeus, living in cold Sweden (a country with only 2000 plant species) developed his classification of all organisms into seven levels: kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species. We amateur botanisers confine ourselves to **family, genus and species**. For example, the **family** protea comprises several **genera** such as pincushions, cone-bushes, proteas, serrurias and even the dreaded hakea! Each **genus** comprises multiple **species**, each with two (binomial) latin names, eg *Leucospermum*. The pincushion genus, includes the species *L cordifolium*, *L patersonii* and *L conocarpodendron*. The last-mentioned is the commonest pincushion in the Kogelberg.

So next time you see a sugarbird or baboon feasting on a pincushion, spare a thought for this poet turned taxonomist who never travelled further than Holland and yet received countless specimens from multiple collectors in numerous locations. He taught many devoted students at Uppsala University in Sweden, 17 of which he called his "apostles" who all made botanical expeditions to various places in the world.

The apostles who visited here were Anders Spaarman, Joseph Banks and Carl Thunberg and it is to them and all our later local enthusiasts that we must give a deep bow of appreciation.

BOB BAIGRIE



ROOIELS IMPORTANT CONTACTS

STREET NUMBER

ERF NUMBER

STREET NAME

EMERGENCY

Overstrand 24-Hour Control Room	028 313 8111
All Emergencies (Toll-free land line)	10177
All Emergencies (from cellphone)	112
Poisons Information Helpline	0861 555 777
Lifeline (Emotional support)	021 461 1113
Mountain Rescue	021 948 9900
Pringle Bay Medics	082 232 8048

FIRE

Overstrand 24-Hour Fire & Rescue	028 312 2400
Rooiels Fire Coordinator (Hilgard)	082 898 8202

SEA RESCUE (NSRI)

<i>Post on Block Watch WhatsApp group</i>	
Public Emergency number	087 094 9774
NSRI National	082 380 3800
NSRI Kleinmond	063 699 2765
NSRI Gordon's Bay	072 448 8482
NSRI Hermanus	082 990 5967

SAFETY & SECURITY

ASK Control Room or cellphone number	028 125 0050 073 781 8583
Police (Kleinmond) or, if normal line is out of order	028 271 8200 082 443 6069
ASK Rooiels night patroller	079 891 1624
ASK Pringle Bay patroller	072 345 3041
RESA Office (09:00-12:00)	028 273 8089

HOSPITALS & PHARMACIES

Vergelegen Medi-Clinic	021 850 9000
Hermanus Medi-Clinic	028 313 0168
Hermanus Provincial Hospital	028 313 5200
Kleinmond Pharmacy	028 271 3320
Albertyn Pharmacy (Kleinmond)	028 271 4666

OVERSTRAND - KLEINMOND

Email address: enquiries@overstrand.gov.za

Street address: 33 5th Avenue, Kleinmond

Overstrand Municipality (24-hours)	028 313 8000
Kleinmond Municipal Office	028 271 8400
ESKOM	0860 037 566
Tanker bookings	028 271 8435
Traffic Department (Kleinmond)	028 271 8450
Town Planning	028 313 8900
Building Control (Kleinmond)	028 271 8427
Environmental Management	028 316 3724

ANIMALS & PETS

Hermanus Animal Welfare	028 312 1281
Kleinmond Animal Welfare (KAWS)	028 271 5004
Kleinmond Vet Emergency	028 271 4183 072 564 9903
Cottage Vet (Gordon's Bay 24-Hour)	021 856 2746
Seabirds/Penguins	082 783 8585

SNAKE CATCHERS

Ernst Thompson	082 333 1543
Gert Coetzee	083 658 2504
Ian Milne	082 457 3660

ANTI-POACHING

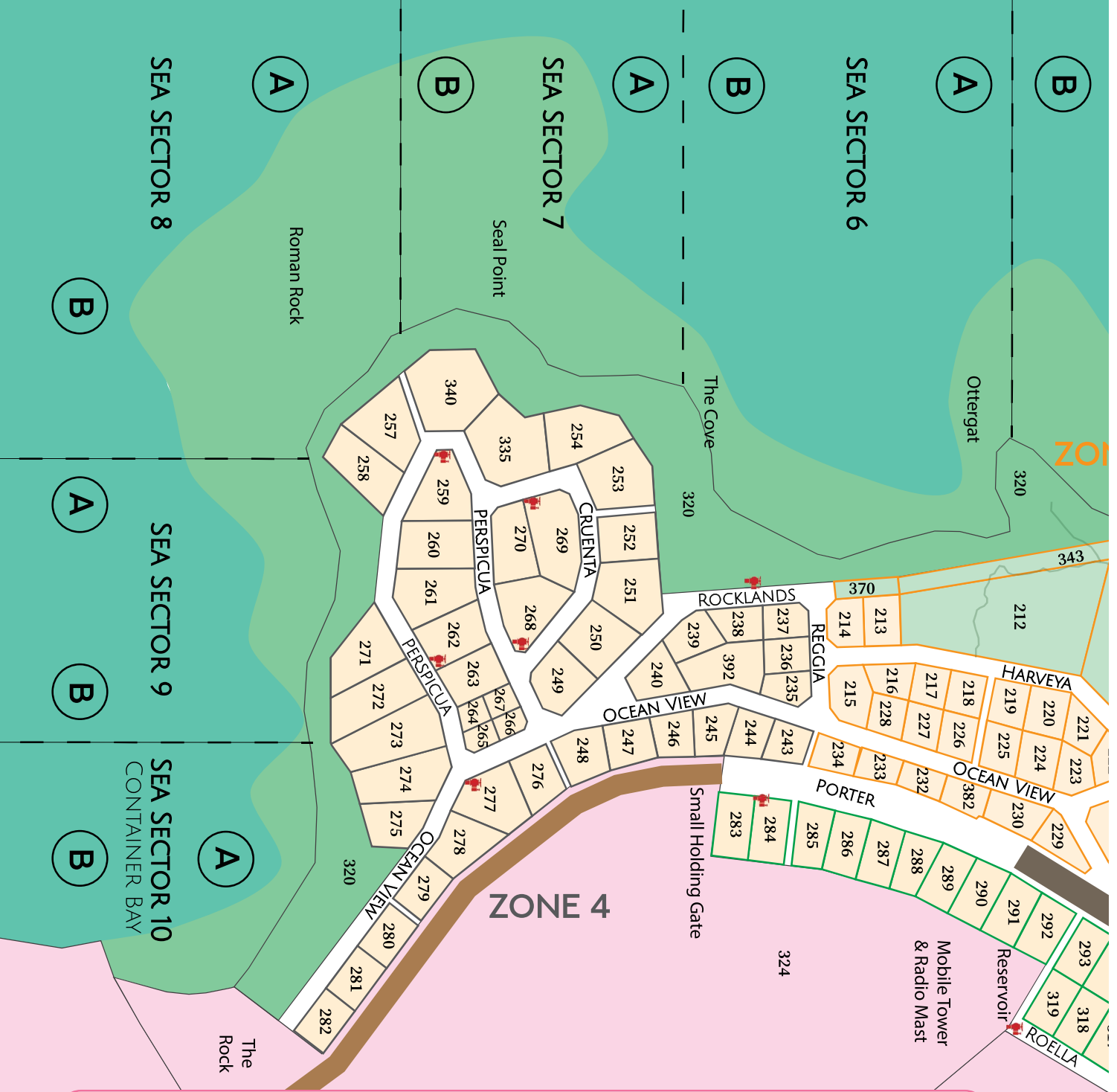
Post on Block Watch WhatsApp group

DAFF Anti-poaching (Johan Fouché)	084 408 6158
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ROOIELS BUSINESSES

Rooiels Village Shop	076 524 3688
Drummond Arms	072 381 2471
Gossip Corner	076 853 2955
Something Els	072 479 5815

ROOIELS.ORG.ZA



ROOIELS

ERF NUMBERS

Erf numbers are shown as at October 2022. According to an Overstrand Municipal bylaw, all premises (residential or commercial) must at all times display their street number. Some map services works on erf numbers, so it makes sense to display both.

SEA SECTORS

Sea sectors and their A- or B-sides are used to direct emergency services, such as the NSRI or the police to specific zones.

FIRE HYDRANTS



Fire hydrants are available throughout the village. Identify one close to you and be so kind as to keep the hydrant clearly visible or contact the RED1 team to clear vegetation.

SECURITY ZONES

Erf edges are colour-coded to zones. These zones are helpful to patrollers.

- ZONE 1** **ZONE 3**
- ZONE 2** **ZONE 4**

312



SEA SECTOR 2

SEA SECTOR 1

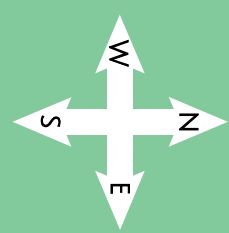
SEA SECTOR 3

SEA SECTOR 4

SEA SECTOR 5

ZONE 2

ZONE 3



205/559

CLARENCE DRIVE (R44)

PORTER

CLARENCE DRIVE (R44)

CLARENCE DRIVE (R44)

River

Main beach

Bridge

Slipway

The Point

Dassie Point

Nature Reserve

Koppie

CAMP

RIVERVIEW

ROSETTA

205/559

ROCKLANDS

MAMMOSA

PRIESTLEYA

GNIDIA

BLENNA

HARVEYA

PORTER

CLARENCE DRIVE (R44)

CLARENCE DRIVE (R44)

CLARENCE DRIVE (R44)

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ROOIELS

OUR VISION

ROOIELS IS A CONSERVATION COMMUNITY CARING TOGETHER TODAY - FOR TOMORROW

OUR VALUES

WE STRIVE TO BE A CARING COMMUNITY UNITED BY OUR PASSION TO CONSERVE THE NATURAL SPLENDOUR OF ROOIELS AND IS KEEN TO SHARE OUR APPRECIATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT WITH OTHERS.

OUR PLEDGE

UNITED IN OUR PASSION FOR THE NATURAL SPLENDOUR OF ROOIELS, 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 BE ENRICHED BY OUR CARE!

ONS VISIE

ROOIELS IS 'N BEWARINGSGEMEENSAP WAT VANDAG SAAM SORG - VIR MÔRE.

ONS WAARDES

ONS STREEF DAARNA OM 'N SORGSAME GEMEENSAP TE WEES. VERENIG IN ONS PASSIE OM DIE NATUURLIKE PRAG VAN ROOIELS TE BEWAAR EN OM YWERIG TE WEES OM ONS WAARDERING VAN DIE OMGEWING MET ANDER TE DEEL

ONS ONDERNEMING

VERENIG IN ONS PASSIE VIR DIE NATUURPRAG VAN ROOIELS, ONDERNEEM ONS DAT HIER ...

- DIE NATUUR GEKOESTER SAL WORD
- PLANTE, DIERE, EN SEELEWE BESKERM SAL WORD
- ELKE IMPAK VAN ONS OP HIERDIE GEBIED BEPERK SAL WEES
- ONS VOOGDYSKAP OOR ONS OMGEWING GERESPEKTEER SAL WORD
- ONS GEMEENSAPSGEES VERSTERK SAL WORD

SODAT ON LEWENS EN DIÉ VAN DIE TOEKOMSTIGE GESLAGTE VERRYK SAL WORD DEUR ONS SORG!

UMBONO WETHU

IROOIELS LULUNTU LOLONDOLOZO OLUKHATHALELA KUNYE NAMHLANJE - KUBA NGOMSO

IMLINGANISELO YETHU

SIZAMA UKUBA LULUNTU OLUKHATHALAYO OLUDITYANISWE LUTHANDO LWETHU LOKULONDOLOZA UBUKHAZIKHAZI BENDALO BEROOIELS KWAYE SIZIMISELE UKWABELANA NABANYE NGOXABISO LWETHU NGENDALO ESINGQONGILEYO.

ISITHEMBISO SETHU

SIMANYENE KUTHANDO LWETHU LOBUKHAZIKHAZI BENDALO BEROOIELS, SIYATHEMBISA UKUBA APHA ...

- INDALO IYA KUKHULISWA
- IIFLORA, FAUNA, KUNYE NEMARINE LIFE ZIKHUSELWE
- YONKE IMPEMBELELO YETHU KWINDOWO ILINGANISELWE
- UGCINO LWETHU LOKUSINGQONGILEYO LUYAHLONITSHWA
- UMOYA WETHU EKHULALENI WOMELEZWA

UKUZE UBOMI BETHU, KUNYE NOBEZIZUKULWANA EZIZAYO, BUTYETIYISWE KUKUKHATHALELWA KWETHU!

HOW TO GIVE

Rooiels Ratepayers' Association

Nedbank Savings Account

Account name: RERA

Account number: 9019464920

Reference: ERF NUMBER, NAME AND SURNAME

Send proof of payment to rera@rooiels.org.za

Rooiels Conservancy

Nedbank Savings Account

Account name: REC

Account number: 9019647510

Reference: ERF NUMBER, NAME AND SURNAME

Send proof of payment to rec@rooiels.org.za

Rooiels Outreach - Donations

Nedbank Current Account

Account name: Community Projects and Outreach

Account number: 9019996808

Reference: NAME AND SURNAME

Send proof of payment to Ivan Becker 0832899385

Hack day (just another way to give)

1st Saturday of each month, except if specifically postponed or cancelled due to weather or conflicting calendar events.

Rooiels Security Association - Membership

Nedbank Savings Account

Account name: RESA

Account number: 9018382109

Reference: ERF NUMBER, NAME AND SURNAME

Send proof of payment to resa@rooiels.org.za

Rooiels Security Association - Donations

Nedbank Savings Account

Account name: RESA

Account number: 9019777820

Reference: ERF NUMBER, NAME AND SURNAME

Send proof of payment to resa@rooiels.org.za

Rewilding

GAAN DAAROO OM DIE
NATUUR ORAL UIT TE
BREI DEUR PLAASLIKE
GROEN INFRASTRUKTUUR TEEN DIE RAND
VAN ONS PAAIE, IN OORBLYWENDE RUIMTES,
EN OP EN BINNE ONS GEBOUE TE VESTIG.

Op Rooiels beteken dit om mense aan te moedig om 'n deel van hul tuin aan die natuur oor te laat, ons padrande natuurlik te hou, gange vir wilde diere te behou, dit te vermy om die hele erf met 'n heining toe te kamp, te verhoed dat wilde diere toegang tot menslike kos kry, en om die wonders van die lewe hier te geniet

"Rewilding—as an idea, a meme—is culturally powerful because, in a time of loss and diminishment for the diversity of life, it represents the potential and possibility for more: More beauty. More abundance. More equity among all the creatures who inhabit the Earth—including humans, of course, even ones who forget their own creatureliness. Moreover, rewilding captivates because almost any of us can put ourselves into that story, either through individual or collective action."¹

Rewilding is die stappe wat ons neem om natuurlike prosesse te herstel. Dit is die teenoorgestelde van die beheer of kweek van die natuur. Dit skep 'n balans tussen mense en die res van die natuur. Rewilding behels die herstel van ekosisteme sodat biodiversiteit aangemoedig word, wilde diere floreer en die natuur toegelaat word om selfversorgend te bly. Ons liggame en gedagtes is ingestel op die wilde natuur. Ons streshormoonvlakke wys dit. Die direkte, meetbare, fisiologiese en sielkundige uitwerking op die menslike liggaam van tyd wat in

natuurlike omgewings deurgebring word, is die fokus van fassinerende en groeiende navorsing.

Rewilding beteken om dit aan die natuur oor te laat om die natuur te herstel. Dit omvat alle vlakke van omvang – selfs net om 'n klein deel van jou tuin wild te laat. Laat plaaslike plante toe om natuurlik te versprei en laat insekte, reptiele, paddas, voëls, en soogdiere die kos en skuiling vind wat hulle nodig het. Verwyder indringer uitheemse plante. Dit sluit in 'buite-perke' indringers wat inheems aan Suid-Afrika is, maar nie in hierdie gebied nie. Wanneer indringerplante maklik versprei, vervang hulle die plaaslike flora wat weer die diversiteit van mikro-organismes, swamme, en diere verminder. Die doel is om die natuur te help, sodat ons beter met die natuur kan saamleef en ons plek kan inneem as deel van die natuur.


Dit beteken nie dat jy moet ophou om jou gunsteling blomme te kweek nie – solank dit nie indringend is nie (d.w.s. versprei weg van jou tuin). Vir diegene wat verkies dat hul hele tuin gemanikuur is, sal selfs net sommige nie-hibriede plante 'n groot hydrae maak. Probeer om een hoek van jou tuin wild te laat. Vermy die gebruik van plaagdoders, onkruiddoders, of chemiese kunsmis. Hou in gedagte dat die padreserwes munisipale grond is en dien as fynbos saadbanke en habitat vir diere.

Daar is byna geen lewenskrag in 'n gesnyde grasperk nie. In 2019 is 'n grasperk by King's Kollege, Cambridge, in 'n weiveld verander en teen 2021 het dit insekte, voëls, en vlermuise gelok, en 'n opname het 130 spesies van motte

gevind. Daar is sowat 20 miljoen ha grasperk in die VSA en meer as 400 000 ha privaat tuin in die VK – as selfs 'n klein deel hiervan by die natuur aangepas kan word, sal daar 'n beduidende toename in biodiversiteit wees. Geniet 'n kleiner stukkie versorgde grasperk – en laat 'n deel daarvan wild word. Die Overstrand en ander munisipaliteite vertraag die sny van gras tot nadat die lentebloem langs uitgesoekte paaie saad geskiet het en hulle het ons gevra dat ons in belang van biodiversiteit en die vreugde van die blomme, die slordigheid aanvaar wat daarmee gepaard gaan. Ons hier in Rooiels wil graag ons padreserwes en hopelik dele van sommige tuine die hele jaar deur natuurlik hou.

Rewilding vind regoor die wêreld plaas terwyl mense probeer om die kommerwekkende verlies van spesies om te keer.

'n Kwart van die spesies wat in Suid-Afrika verlore gaan, is veroorsaak deur indringer uitheemse spesies wat oorneem. Die geraamde ekologiese koste van indringerplante en -diere vir Suid-Afrika beloop R6.5 biljoen per jaar. Nie alle uitheemse plante en diere is indringers nie en baie hou voordele in.

Die konsep, wat aanvanklik op groot gebiede en top roofdiere gefokus is, word nou selfs in stedelike gebiede toegepas. Benewens die voordele vir die oorlewing van ons omgewing - om in kontak te wees met die ongetemde natuur het erkende voordele vir menslike welsyn. Iets wat ons almal ken vanuit ons ervaring van leef op Rooiels. 

¹ Johns, D. (2019). History of rewilding: Ideas and practice. In N. Pettoelli, S. Durant, & Du Toit (Eds.), Rewilding. Cambridge University Press.

Photograph by Derek Gibb (@vikingr_ig)

Derek and his family have owned a house in Rooi Els (in Rocklands Road) since 1987 and he grew up playing and swimming in the rock pools in front of their house. They used to spend hours searching for crabs, shells and the occasional octopus in the rock pools. He now lives in the UK and visit Rooiels a couple of times a year. This photograph is taken close to his brother's house in Crucenta Circle, while on holiday in August 2022.

