

# Briese Breeze

Rooiels Ratepayers Association 1/98  
Rooiels Belastingbetalersvereniging 1/98

## Redaksioneel

*Charles, ons Rooiels bobbejaan-mannetjie, die alleenloper met die twee wyfies en die pragtige maanhare, het in Desember eendag ongesiens hier by ons huis ingestap en baie rustig homself aan 'n hele sak beskuit gehelp. Toe weet ek: ons huis is gemerk. En wraggies, die volgende dag is hy terug vir meer beskuit en vrugte. Dit was maar net die begin. Toe het ons soos gevangenes in ons eie huis begin leef. Waar ons voorheen alle deure, alle tye van die dag oopgelaat het, kon ons dit later nie eens meer waag om met ons rûe na 'n oop deur te sit nie. Hy het selfs vriende gemaak met Ramkat, ons kwaai kat om wie die honde van die dorp wye draaie loop - vra maar vir Mufasa. Maar nou klim Charles sommer óór Ramkat, wat gewoonlik uitgestrek in die deur lê om die huis te beskerm, om in te kom.*

*Toe hoor ons van jonge Robert Stals (erf 56) wat sulke egte regte outydse ketties maak en skaf toe een aan. Dit werk! Ons het nou selfs agtergekom dat jy nie eens die kettie by jou hoef te hê nie - jy maak 'n mik met jou twee voorvingers, soos die V-sign, en trek aan die denkbeeldige rek. Dan hardloop Charles met 'n bobbejaan-galop dat die stof so staan. Ons bly nog versigtig - maar Charles loop nou wye draaie om ons huis.*

*As Charles kom pla, gee hom net die V-sign.*

*The RERA ended last year with a membership of 150 out of a possible 285 ratepayers. If I listen to the enthusiasm of the new committee and all they plan for the new year, I realise that we need the same kind of support. There are many projects*

*which we would like to tackle this year, but this can only happen if we enjoy enough support.*

*In order to keep the wheels of the association rolling, more is needed than membership fees. We have received various donations, of which some were quite substantial. We wish to thank all our donors. I would like to mention the REBC specifically.*

*As u weer deur die dorp stap kan u gerus gaan kyk wat Pierre en Louise du Toit, wat aan die Hangklipkant woon, oorkant hulle huis gedoen het om die vertrapping van die plantegroei teë te werk. Dagbesoekers het oor die jare 'n hele netwerk van paadjies na die see getrap en Pierre en Louise het voor die vakansie baie hard gewerk om van die paadjies toe te pak en net 'n paar duidelik afgemerkte roetes na die rotse en see uitgelê.*

*It is my desire that the Breeze should reach every ratepayer of Rooiels, but the reality is that postage doubled last year, printing has become more expensive and the expenses related to hacks which now take place monthly, have risen substantially. As a result, this will be the last Breeze to be posted to everyone. Subsequent editions can only be posted to paid-up members of the RERA. Last year we were still in a position to keep everyone informed - but, alas...*

*We look forward to a busy, productive year. Enjoy reading this edition!*

Gerard Scholtz

## From the Chair

**O**ur sincere thanks to all of you who attended the AGM. For those of you who were unable to be there, you missed a happy

and productive event. Those who were there will tell you that your Exco had a very active and successful year on your behalf, achieving most of the important milestones which you mandated.

**Three** of our committee members did not make themselves available for re-election and while it is always sad to say adieu to long-standing members who have given so much

to the Rooiels community, they deserve their break. So, to Jean Cowen, Diarmuid Baigrie and Willie Pienaar we say a fond farewell and wish you well and extend a very sincere THANK YOU for all that you have meant to our community. Your dedication and love for Rooiels has really made a difference to the community and environment.

**Elected** in their places were Lida van Dyk, Ral Meredith and Dick Lockley. We bid them welcome on your behalf and trust they will enjoy their time with the Exco.

**I** have always believed that a committee should be a dynamic entity with changes bringing new ideas and energies into focus. This was evident at our first meeting earlier this year when the new members added their impetus. I believe it is going to be a good year for Rooiels.

**Waar** erfbelastings sal eindig, sal ons nie weet nie. Dit wil voorkom of bykans alle munisipaliteite deesdae probleme van die een of ander aard ondervind! Die nuwe Finansiële Advieskomitee van die gemeenskap wat onlangs aangestel is (Eldie Brink is ons verteenwoordiger - dankie Eldie!), is sekerlik 'n stap in die regte rigting. Nou kan daar uit die gemeenskaplike kennis en vaardighede in die gemeenskap getap word. Ons wens hulle alles van die beste toe met die baie



belangrike rol wat hulle in die toekoms van ons gebied sal speel.

The RERA, following the wishes and mandate of the vast majority of ratepayers as approved in the original Rooiels Vision of 1996, has approached the Hangklip-Kleinmond Municipality - via our councillor to a land-swap between erf 11 and an erf on the other side of Clarence Drive to accommodate a future "community centre" which could eventually incorporate the herbarium and accommodate social activities.

We wish you all a very happy Easter and hope that we will see many of you on the beaches at that time.

### Geoff Harris

Voorsitter: REBV/RERA

## Meet the new Exco:

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## Erf 324 : Latest!

Op 27 Januarie 1998 het Mnr Kobus Meiring, Wes-Kaapse Minister van Beplanning en Toerisme, formeel die onderverdeling van Erf 324 in 13 woonerwe, openbare sone (erwe 14-16), munisipale sone (langs reservoir) en openbare pad goedgekeur.

Sodanige goedkeuring was ten spyte van die Hangklip-Kleinmond Raad se onlangse **eenparige** afkeuring van die beoogde onderverdeling en die gelyktydige verwydering van titelvoorwaardes om die onderverdeling te bewerkstellig. Ek, die burgemeester, Mnr Willie Smuts en raadslede is hewig ontsteld oor hierdie ontwikkeling. Ons het op 12 Februarie 1998 'n onderhoud met Minister Meiring hieroor aangevra. Hierdie onderhoud is eers op 20 Maart 1998 deur hom toegestaan, waartydens ek en mnr Smuts aan die Minister en sy amptenare sekere vrae gestel het oor die goedkeuring. Die vrae is hoflik beantwoord, maar volgens my mening op 'n onbevredigende wyse. Op die vraag of hy bewus was van die feit dat die Hangklip-Kleinmond Raad en die gemeenskap ten sterkste teen die ontwikkeling gekant was, het Minister Meiring bevestigend geantwoord. Hy het ook aangevoer dat die besluit volgens hom en sy amptenare "'n kompromis" was.

### Vrae bly pla

Daar is egter 'n hele aantal vrae wat my, as Raadslid vir Rooiels, en sekerlik ook die 97 beswaarmakers sal bly pla:

1 Hoekom het Minister Lampie Fick nie 'n besluit oor die aangeleentheid geneem nie? Hy het op 21 April 1997 'n persverklaring gemaak wat wyd in die pers gerapporteer was. Hiervolgens sou "ontwikkeling in sensitiewe gebiede soos Rooiels, Knysna en Langebaan" reeds aan die strenger vereistes van die nuwe

kusontwikkelingsbeleid gemeet word. (Die Burger 22 April 1997). Die Belasting-betalersvereniging se voorsitter, Geoff Harris, het Minister Fick hiermee gelukkigewens in 'n brief gedateer 26 April 1997: "The Rooi-Els Community was delighted to read newspaper reports that you announced the imminent implementation of a Structure Plan which apparently is environmentally friendly and supportive against untoward development of sensitive coastal areas.

"The RERA boasts an amazing paid-up membership of nearly 50% of the erf owners in Rooiels. Not only these members, but EVERY ratepayer received a copy, and unanimously accepted the attached Vision for Rooiels. We can therefore assure you of our community support for any measure which protects them against 'rogue developers riding roughshod over residents and owners of holiday cottages'. (as quoted in the Cape Times of 22 April)."

Your specific appreciation of our situation and designation of Rooiels as a "sensitive area" is roundly applauded. However, as usual, your Department's bona fides will be judged by the community on the stand you take on contentious developments to which they have currently objected as well as those where developers may try to rush applications through prior to the promulgation of the Structure Plan. Developments will be covered in a future Rooiels Breeze."

Bogenoemde blyk nou profetiese woorde te gewees het. Die memorandum oor Erf 324 het reeds op 19 Desember 1997 na Minister Lampie Fick gegaan vir 'n besluit. Ons het toe verneem dat 'n besluit enige oomblik gemaak sou word. Ek het 'n faks aan hom gestuur en hom gevra om my te woord te staan alvorens hy 'n besluit neem. Geen reaksie. In die tweede week van Januarie 1998 het die amptenare gesê dat Minister Fick 'n besluit geneem het. Dit was egter nie so nie. Hoekom? Minister Fick het klaarblyklik weer met amptenare gesels. Was hy ontevrede met hulle aanbevelings? Het hy riglyne vir die nuwe Minister hieroor gelaat? Na aanleiding van sy persoonlike houding, soos weerspieël in die pers, was hy blykbaar nie gelukkig met die ontwikkeling van Erf 324 nie.

2 Hoekom het Minister Meiring 'n



besluit geneem **teen** die uitdruklike aanbevelings van 'n verteenwoordigende plaaslike raad? Sy verweer dat hy "maar in die laaste fase by hierdie proses betrek is", klink ongemaklik.

3 Hoekom is geen ag geslaan op die wense van die gemeenskap en die besware van omgewingsorganisasies in hierdie aangeleentheid nie? (Ook twee staatsdepartemente het teen hierdie ondervredeling beswaar gemaak.)

Ek het nie antwoorde hierop nie. Dit is almal vrae wat u geregtig is om te vra en waarop die Provinsiale Regering aan u 'n antwoord verskuldig is.

### Julia Aalbers

Raadslid vir Rooiels

### Comments from the chair:

Having been involved in the negotiations about erf 324 leading up to the infamous decision against the wishes of the community and the local authority and now having read our councillor's report, the RERA feels it must ask one direct question of the provincial authorities:

*Have Rooiels and its ratepayers been the victim of party political expediency, where the objections of such a high percentage of ratepayers as well as the local authority are ignored in favour of the wishes of one person – the Developer?*

This is especially so if there is any truth in the rumour that the owner is already trying to sell erf 324 ...obviously at a substantial profit! So much for Mr Nel's assurances that "all he wanted of the subdivision was a few plots for his immediate family."

We have not heard the last of this unfortunate saga!

## Soneringskaart

Na 'n lang deelnemende proses is die Soneringskaart vir Rooiels in Januarie 1998 deur die Hangklip-Kleinmond Raad goedgekeur, tesame met 'n lys van aanbevelings wat ook nou verder deur die munisipaliteit administratief gehanteer moet word.

Ek haal uit die verslag aan:

### 5.2.1 ERF 1

This property is undeveloped, in a natural state and situated at the edge of Rooiels overlooking the Rooiels River. It is owned by the Dept of Cape Nature Conservation who will support its designation as a nature area. It is recommended that Erf 1 be established as a local nature reserve in terms of section 7(5) of the Nature and Environmental Conservation Ordinance, 19/1974. The property is zoned Open Space Zone III, but its status as a nature reserve should be gazetted in a similar way to other nature reserves in Rooiels.

### 5.2.2 ERVEN 9 AND 12

The township was laid out with Camp Road designed to provide access to properties east of Clarence Drive. Level differences, the curvature of Clarence Drive and stormwater drains mean that Camp Road is not usable. As a consequence Erven 9 and 12 were acquired by the Roads Trustee and a road has been constructed over these properties. These properties are zoned for a public street, i.e. Transport Zone II, but it is recommended that negotiations be initiated to transfer these erven to the local authority so that they have the same ownership as other roads in Rooiels.

### 5.2.3 ERF 11

Erf 11 belongs to the Overberg District Council acting as trustees for the local authority and it is zoned as Authority Zone. A number of uses have been suggested for this property including: public open space, community hall, church.

Council needs to decide on the planned use of the property and appropriate rezoning may then be necessary. In the meantime, we recommend that negotiations start for the acquisition of this property by the Hangklip-Kleinmond Municipality.

### 5.2.4 ERF 29

The title deed refers to government use on this site and it is understood that it is owned by the Dept of Cape Nature Conservation. Authority Zone is the only zoning option, but if the Dept of Cape Nature Conservation is willing, the property could be transferred to the Municipality and allocated for community use. Depending on the nature of that community use, rezoning can be considered. The property could also be sold as a residential erf (after rezoning) and the funds used for local community purposes. Council should start negotiations to acquire this property.

### 5.2.5 ERVEN 45 & 46

A lane is situated between erven 45 & 46 to serve as access from Lovers Walk to the lagoon. However we understand that the lane is at present between erven 46 and 47 in frequent use. As a result, the zoning map and Surveyor General's diagram are not consistent with the existing use on the ground. There appears to be no reason in

principle why this lane should not be retained in its position between erven 46 and 47, but the Surveyor General diagrams should be amended to reflect this situation. This will involve a process for the closure of a public place and alienation of land.

### 5.2.6 ROAD CLOSURES

Certain roads in Rooiels have not been constructed and will never be required as a public street. These include portions of Camp Road and River View Road. In addition a portion of Arctotis Road has not been constructed and there are different opinions about whether or not this road should be closed. Council should initiate an investigation into these road closure options, and if it is decided that the roads should be closed, then the correct administrative procedure should be followed.

### 5.2.7 NATURE RESERVE

There is general consensus among community representatives that the coastline and large open spaces in Rooiels should be designated as Nature Reserve. This consensus has been incorporated in the zoning map, but does not carry legal status in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act. That Act governs the declaration and management of nature reserves. Council is therefore urged to initiate procedures to promulgate the areas identified as nature reserves in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act, to draw up management guidelines for these nature areas, and to implement an environment management programme. Clearly this work should be co-ordinated with the initiative to establish a Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, which envisages buffer zones and transition zones in Rooiels.

Erfeenaars sal binnekort verwittig word van die sonering van hulle erwe en indien hul ontevrede is, kan verder beswaar by die Premier aangeteken word.

### Julia Aalbers

Raadslid vir Rooiels

## 1997 AGM: Extracts

Ons AJV, wat op 27 Desember 1997 gehou is, is goed ondersteun.

- The mayor, Mr Willie Smuts, was asked to give a brief overview of the 1997/1998 budget and answered questions put by ratepayers. The mayor explained that the council had established a representative financial committee which would finalise the



budget. Mr Eldie Brink, our well-known financial expert has been elected to represent Rooiels.

- Ondersteuning vir die Visie vir Rooiels is herbevestig.
- The chairperson, Geoff Harris, thanked our councillor, Julia Aalbers, for tremendous work done during 1997 – especially with regard to the finalisation of the zoning map. Extra costs amounting to R44 000.00 were incurred by the municipality as a result the Rooiels Inhabitants Association opposing the finalisation of the zoning map.
- The meeting expressed its concern that unbridled development in Rooiels would attract illegal squatting – which already constitutes a serious problem within the Hangklip-Kleinmond Municipal area.
- Besondere dank is teenoor Jo Henson uitgespreek wat 'n effektiewe sekuriteitstelsel op die been gebring het, asook hulp wat hy verleen het tydens die in hegtenisneming van diewe tydens 'n onlangse diefstal.
- Gerard Scholtz is bedank vir die inisiëring van suksesvolle vakansie-programme tydens paastyd en die kersvakansie.
- Die 9 kapdae gedurende die afgelope jaar is goed ondersteun.
- The Chairperson of the Rooiels Boat Club (REBC), Diarmuid Baigrie, confirmed the Club's banning of jet skis and asked members to report contraventions to him.
- Die ingang tot Rooiels sal binnekort geplavei word. Spoedkalmereingsmaatreëls sal ingebou word.
- Members expressed their concern about light-pollution and requested that residents keep the use of outside lights to a minimum.
- The problem of builders' rubble left on plots was discussed. Julia Aalbers informed the meeting that a municipal by-law was in the process of being drafted to penalise builders who engage in this practice.

## Archaeological importance of Rooiels

Rooiels boasts a number of historical archaeological sites and some of these were pointed out to a couple of residents by Dr Graham Avery on 14 January.

Dr Avery, an archaeologist and head of Human Sciences at the South African Museum, does paleontological research on human, mammal and ornithological history. He is also presently the national president of the Wildlife and Environment Society of SA.

Die RERA het Dr Avery genooi om 'n paar kus veldkombuise uit te wys wat op 'n hele paar plekke op Rooiels voorkom. Hierdie kus veldkombuise bestaan gewoonlik uit lae skulpe en artefakte wat deur vorige inwoners van hierdie gebied gebruik is. Dit is moeilik om sonder wetenskaplike navorsing te bepaal hoe oud die veldkombuise kan wees, maar dit moet baie oud wees. Die skulplae wat deur die vorige bewoners van Rooiels agtergelaat is, is op sommige plekke duidelik sigbaar.

By een van die kombuise is daar potskerwe en handwerktuie gevind wat oop en bloot onder die hemel gelê het. Hoeveel keer het ons nie al oor hierdie historiese artefakte geloop en nie besef wat ons besig is om stukkend te trap nie.

Dr Avery het ook 'n viswywer geïdentifiseer en die klippe wat duisende jare gelede gepak is om visse in 'n lokval te lei, is nog duidelik sigbaar.

Dr Avery was accompanied by Lin Lam, a Ph.D. student from the State University of New York, who is studying seasonal growth layers in the teeth of antelopes and seals. He is trying to collect modern specimens of seal and antelope of known date of death as a reference sample for the interpretation of specimens from archaeological sites. If any dead seals wash up on the beach and you can establish when it died, please contact him at the South African Museum at (021) 24 3330.

Some years ago the Department of Archaeology at the University of Cape Town undertook a dig in the caves above the Rooiels River – an event which underlines the historical importance of this area.

The history of Rooiels goes back thousands of years and at the moment Rita Blake of erf 130 is researching this history which we hope to publish at some later date. (See her article elsewhere in this edition)

## What if...??

### Life's a beach at Rooiels!!

*Braais* are all part of that wonderful feeling – but what begins as a terrific experience can, accidentally or through sheer negligence, turn into an absolute nightmare, not just for the participants but for the entire community. Always remember our infamous wind. Every household should be advised to have a readily accessible and functional hosepipe – holey and unattached hoses are not always useful in a real emergency.

### NEVER UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD AN OPEN FIRE BE LEFT UNATTENDED!

*I can* personally recall three previous incidents where ordinary braai fires got out of control (remember when the mountain went up in flames?), and on Saturday 14 March another braai almost turned into a tragedy in Rocklands Road. If it hadn't been for the prompt reaction of neighbours, the consequences could have been just too horrific to contemplate. Memories are often short-lived. Please be mindful of those consequences. Remember Betty's Bay last year and ask yourself – what if ...?

*By an observer*

## Sea Horse Inn

Earlier this year we said farewell to Rosi and Chris who moved to Kleinmond. This was the end of Rosi's Coffee Shop at Rooiels.

The Thomsons, mother Eva, her son Peter and his wife Anisha, opened a new business on the same premises, with a new name: Sea Horse Inn. They previously owned two Coffee Shops in Cape Town: Le Petit Paris and Duck's Coffee Shop.

Everything is prepared on the premises: pies, cakes, muffins, scones, etc. All can be ordered in advance. Light catering is also offered. Vegetarian dishes are available by previous arrangement. The menu is small at present and will be expanded after feedback from patrons. Groceries are also available. Fresh bread and milk will be available if ordered beforehand.



They will be open in the evenings for light meals and will soon be licenced.

Cell: 082 978 2884

## THE HEALTH AND HACKIT CLUB

At the risk of boring those of you who attended the AGM, I would like to give a summary of last year's activities.

We had a total of nine hacks, attended by between 13 and 27 hackers. We managed to clear all road verges in the central block of the village, bordered by Anemone, Rocklands, Study and Harveya Roads, as well as six private erven and parts of a further six.

This year we will start on the most infested part of the village stretching from Anemone Road to the north.

An application for R5000 from Somchem funds was granted by Council. This amount will cover the purchase of two power saws, hand saw blades and three secateurs. We look forward to many productive hours with the new equipment.

Ons voel 'n baie groot behoefte aan jonger kappers in ons midde. Ek en Gerard is nou al sestien jaar lank onder die jongstes en ons voel dis nou tyd om in die middelouderdomsgroep in te beweeg. Ons vra slegs twee en 'n half uur een maal per maand. Al woon u net EEN kapdag in die jaar by, sou ons dit geweldig waardeer. Die totale aantal gereelde kappers is om en by dertig en as ons hierdie aantal kan verdubbel, beteken dit dat ons twee maal soveel sal kan uitrig - dink net aan die verskil wat dit aan Rooiels kan maak!

Ek wil graag 'n beroep doen op alle erfeienaars wat deur die kapgroep gehelp is met die skoonmaak van hulle erwe, om dit te oorweeg om, as blyk van hul waardering, 'n bydrae in die vorm van toerusting te maak. Skakel gerus met my vir inligting oor wat ons benodig. Ek sal met **graagte** van hulp wil wees!

Daar is niks meer opwindend as om deel te wees van 'n span wat die stryd teen indringerplante voer nie! Kom sluit gerus aan, ontmoet ander

inwoners/eienaars en kuier daarna lekker saam oor 'n toebroodjie.

**Anuta Scholtz**

Tel/Faks: (02823) 28539

## Bird Chat

**Birding** is as much of a mix as life is in what it can "dish up" for us. Sometimes joyous, sometimes sad. Over the last year we've reported on both sad and joyous sightings in our special environment. We enclose the CBC (Cape Bird Club) Rare Birds acceptance of a Mangrove Kingfisher (Mangliedvisvanger) – an absolutely spectacular sighting as you can see! This bird is uncommon within its own range and was very special for us as it was a "first" in every sense. What luck for us too that the new Rooielsers, the Brandts, happened to be passing and snapped the KwaZulu Natal visitor – obviously fed up with Durbs too! A superlative welcome indeed for the Brandts.

**Last** year we also commented on the Rockjumpers (Kaapse Berglyster). These inquisitive and pert birds have made their presence known further into Rooiels along both Ocean View and Porter Drive. They are rare and to have such a healthy breeding population says much for the environment.

**On** the sad and worrying side: has anyone seen a Bokmakierie recently? We haven't seen what used to be a common resident in Rooiels, since July 1997. Their colourful plumage and song repertoire makes them one of the most easily recognisable and endearing of all birds. Their omniverous diet and adaptable choice of habitat makes their absence the more disturbing.

**The Black Oystercatcher (Swarttobie)** is an endangered species, so much so that the Fitzpatrick Institute has spent a substantial sum of money trying to establish just how many pairs there are in South Africa. We've regularly seen three of these impressive birds on the beach, but recently we've seen and heard four – presumably two pairs. Good news indeed! Like our much more common White-fronted Sand Plover (Vaalstrandkiewiet) their demise has been the direct result of their choice of nesting site. In a well-documented case a nest was destroyed when a film crew wanted a beach cleared of all debris (i.e. kelp, driftwood, etc.) for a commercial. The greater the human population of our beaches, the fewer nests survive. The plovers nest frequently and their behaviour near the nest or chick is quite an event. Close scrutiny of the parents give a clue as to whether it's a

nest or chick(s). If the parent goes into the "dying" act there is a chick(s) about, the more frenetic the closer you are to the chick(s). This week we've seen a two-egged nest and a chick belonging to different pairs.

**We** were absolutely delighted to see the return of the Black Eagle (Witkruisarend), but our sightings have been negligible and as yet we could not be sure of its permanent return.

**Our** monthly shopping basket usually contains a large bag of mixed grain. We seem to have several seed-eating birds and their families to support these days. The first curtain opening of the morning guarantees the appearance of our "tame" francolins (Kaapse Fisant) for breakfast. These delightful birds seem very much at home in the security of the garden. This year there have been no chicks from our small flock (or more correctly, covey) of up to six birds – has anyone seen chicks this year?

**Our** resident Yellowrumped Widow (Kaapse Flap) and his family visit daily and are becoming demanding – pecks on the window are common if breakfast is late! A magnificent breeding plumage with the stark contrast of black and yellow makes the male of this species quite unmistakable. The rest of the year, though heavily marked, they are often "missed".

**Any** birding information is greatly welcomed by us – phone us on (02823) 28528 with your sightings to keep our records up to date which are annually correlated at Stellenbosch University. Any really keen observers can get a full bird list from us to help us with our monthly counts.

Happy birding.

### Alison and Helen

#### CBC RARE BIRDS

Since the last report of this committee, Published in *Promerops* 229 of July 1997, a further eleven records have been vetted. Of these, one has been held over for further consideration by the committee and will be dealt with in the next report. *The accepted records are as follows:*

**MANGROVE KINGFISHER (434)** – One bird was seen sitting on a telephone wire in Rooi-Els on 1 May 1997 (JH Brandt – photographed, Alison Ayre & Helen Jones).

This species is known to undertake local migrations between its breeding and wintering grounds on the east coast of South Africa, and it is presumed that this exceptional record must be the result of a reverse migration.



## *'n Besige Rooiels*

'n Baie suksesvolle en besige vakansieprogram is tydens die afgelope feestyd deur die REBV aangebied. 'n Verskeidenheid van aktiwiteite is gereël wat gewissel het van ontspannend tot opvoedkundig van aard. Hierdeur is die gemeenskap saamgesnoer en is dit positief deur almal beleef. Die sukses kan ook in monitiêre waarde gemeet word as daar gekyk word na die omset van die Rooiels Skemer Kers-kunsroete wat binne vier aande 'n omset van R10 000 gegenereer het.

Een van die gewildste aktiwiteite was die Seewerksinkels wat onder die leiding van Evette Weyers gestaan het. Sy het op die tema, Die Rotspoel as venster tot die oseaan, gekonsentreer en het ook die geleentheid benut om 'n Junior Seewag op die been te bring.

More than 60 people from Rooiels who never have the opportunity to go out on a boat, were given just that opportunity during the Boat Club open day. They took trips with experienced skippers and these members of the Boat Club donated their kreef quota for the day to the people of Rooiels.

The Rooiels Sunset Arts and Crafts Route was a concept which appealed to all. For the first time, people from Rooiels could do their Christmas shopping at sunset while walking from one venue to another and find something light to eat or drink along the way. The goods offered for sale were produced mostly by artists/crafters in our area. One of the venues hosted an exhibition by some of South Africa's leading artists and attracted a great deal of attention.

Marius Weyers en Gerard Scholtz het een aand 'n voordrag-program in Rosi's aangebied en die lokaal was te klein om almal te huisves – sommige moes tevrede wees om buite in die straat te staan en luister. 'n Bedrag van R970, ten bate van die Rooiels Herbarium, is ingesamel.

Ander aktiwiteite wat groot aftrek gekry het was om saam met Prof. Tony Hall deur die Rooiels Natuurreservaat te stap, 'n famieliepretloop na Pringlebaai, 'n bergfiets-prettrap na 'n onbekende bestemming, 'n rit saam met kersvader op sy perdekar deur die dorp, vlugbal op die strand vir die tieners, en om saam met kenners na die voëls van Rooiels te kyk.

To end off the holiday season, residents congregated just after New Year for the traditional black bag day and cleaned the village and beaches after a busy season. This was followed by a watermelon feast and Rooiels could sit back again after all the activity.

## At the Exco:

The following matters are at present under discussion:

- Builders' rubble
- Zoning map
- Erf 324
- Municipal Budget 1998
- Paving of entrance
- Speed calming on Clarence Drive
- Waste management
- Clearing of Somchem site

If you have any matter that you want to be discussed by Exco, please contact the secretary or one of the exco members.

## ROOIELS HERBARIUM

**Ons fondsinsameling** het goed afgeskop met die "Marius and Friends"-konsert in Rosi's. George se seemanspet het R970 opgelewer en ons sê baie dankie aan Marius, Gerard en George vir die vermaak en aan almal vir hulle ruimhartige donasies.

**Ons het tot nou toe** nog baie min daarvan gebruik – Pierre du Toit het die eerste blompers gratis gemaak en 'n groot hoop kladpapier is ook geskenk. Ons groot dank aan Pierre.

**Approximately 60 species** have been collected so far and these specimens are in various stages of drying and storage. Final confirmation of provisional identification will be done by Jane Forrester and Prof. Tony Hall and then the task of mounting the specimens will start. Darelle Snyman will provide us with an example of a field herbarium sample properly mounted and labelled. When we start on this task, we will be needing extra hands, so if anyone anticipates being in Rooiels for a period of

time later this year and you find yourself with free time on your hands, contact us and we can set up a work party. The job involved would include writing labels, mounting plant specimens on cardboard and covering them with plastic.

**The address** for contributions, offers of help or questions:

**The Rooiels Herbarium**  
P.O. Box 120  
Pringle Bay  
7196  
Tel/Fax (02823) 28539

## *A Fynbos Garden*

*It has been* a hot, dry summer, at times with temperatures closer to 40 than 30. Fierce winds have blown away the top layers of sandy soil from ground not bound by the roots of plants.

*It is at such times* that I become aware of the workings of the processes of natural selection. Several years ago we planted two proteas of the same species in a pocket of soil between rocks. Neither has done particularly well, the one between the rocks never having put out one flower, and seeming each summer only just to survive. Yet this is the one that has survived the extremes of this summer; the other died. Why? Is it because its roots have found their way between the rocks which act as a mulch, or have its years of struggling to survive made it a tougher organism? What would be the quality of its seeds, if it managed to produce a flower?

*For some years* I have been watching and nurturing a self-seeded protea, unlike any others in our garden. Last year it produced tiny flowerheads, but these fell off during a dry spell in February. This year the flowerheads became much larger before falling off, and up to a week ago one remained on the bush, so I remain hopeful that we will at last find out what particular protea it is. The larger, well-established bushes have been doing the same thing, losing most of their flowerheads and managing to produce only a small number of blooms.

*Surprisingly*, buffalo grass which we planted during the year to cover sandy



areas around the house has thrived, even though it has gone for long periods without watering. Each time we visited Rooiels I anchored the new shoots on the sand with stones, thus directing their growth to cover bare patches. In less than two weeks it became necessary to move the stone again.

*Likewise*, the dodder continues to put out its strangling tendrils, apparently little impeded by the heat and dryness.

*Our Erica mammosas* are blooming merrily.

*Jean Cowen*

## THE LATEST ON SOMCHEM AND OUR DRINKING WATER

The BCCC, a committee representing the community organisations (including RERA) has been negotiating Somchem's withdrawal from the test site in the mountains behind Rooiels. This task has proved to be extremely onerous and has demanded great patience and dedication in the service of the communities affected by Somchem's presence in the catchment area which provides our drinking water.

Somchem fired the last shot on 4 December 1997 and are in the process of cleaning up the area. This clean-up includes decontamination of the soil and the removal of, amongst other things, tons of lead-polluted soil. Most of the buildings on the site are to be demolished. The contractors will work according to an environment management plan. GIBB Africa will control access to the site until they complete the contract at the end of August 1998. The final ownership of the land will hopefully pass to a "Nature Conservation Board" via the Local Council and from then onwards the area should be used only for conservation purposes and as a catchment area, when it could one day become part of Kobio's plans. The title deeds of portion 186 need, however, to be restricted to ensure that no abuse of our water source ever occurs again.

Many problems have been experienced with the protocol for monitoring the quality of the water – to the point where all community representatives have withdrawn their support for the document and have agreed that the responsibility for the potability of the water cannot rest with the Community, but with those bodies responsible for the original damage: the clean-up contractor and the authorities responsible for providing potable water.

The RERA has been actively involved in the entire process and will continue to be represented at the meetings of the BCCC. We will keep you informed of progress.

## IN MEMORIAM

Meg Harrison passed away on 27 December 1997, sadly missed by family and friends. Those who knew her admired her courage to battle with cancer for 15 years. Thank you, good friends, for your help and support, also for your goodwill and messages.

It is everyone's dream to have a little piece of Rooiels and so, without any serious intentions, a Sunday drive in February 1993 with overseas visitors (no wind that day!) prompted us to stop at Rooiels. Well, you know how it is, this little cottage was looking for new owners, a chance never to be repeated, a persuasive estate agent! So, a sleepless night and a friendly bank manager enabled us to get a foot into Rooiels.

Of course, we fell in love with Rooiels and started to get itchy feet to expand or be upwardly mobile. In November 1994 we sold to Elida van Dyk, but stayed on as caretakers for another year. In September 1995 we moved to Erf 244, hardly a long way, giving us and of course the family who like to visit, a little more room.

Meg will miss it and I her.

"they have tied me to a stake, I cannot fly, but bear-like I must fight the course –"  
Macbeth, Act V Sc. VII.

Tim Harrison

## FEDERATION OF RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATIONS

*Matters currently on the agenda for the Federation meetings:*

- *Waste management: the pilot study has been completed and the report received*
- *Law enforcement: traffic control, including traffic calming measures*
- *Firefighting plan: the Council has provided this plan for scrutiny*
- *Aesthetics committee: the Council has refused representation to ratepayers' associations, but have undertaken to re-think their decision. The Federation has once again written to Council concerning vibracrete walls and awaits a reply*
- *Smallholdings: the Federation continues to oppose all applications for subdivision of smallholdings*
- *Municipal budget: the Federation will request information on the budget as soon as they have studied the reports of the various community representatives on the Financial Committee of the Council*
- *Palmiet River Catchment Management Plan: a report on the state of the catchment is awaited and a timetable for the drawing up of the management plan has been finalised*
- *Kleinmond Harbour Development*
- *BCCC*

## History of Rooiels

Sitting on the stoep after Christmas gazing at the setting sun, I wondered about all the people who had seen the beautiful view of the bay before me. I had been inspired by the interesting facts about the geology mentioned by Tony Hall during his walk through the reserve and by the



stories about the Strandlopers. In a weak moment I decided to write a history of Rooiels. I pictured a few photocopied pages. but when I began my 'research', I discovered that there was far more than I had expected and the work is getting more and more complex and more and more interesting.

Sedert die tyd van Christus woon die Khoi (Strandlopers) al aan die Kaap met hul skape en voor hulle ...? By Die Kelders het Die Universiteit van Kaapstad gebeendere en gereedskap van 80 000 jaar gelede gekry en onlangs nog op die weskus is die 100 000 jaar + voetafdrukke van 'n mens gekry! Die Feniciërs het sekerlik om die Kaap gevaar en miskien ook die Egiptenare. Die Portugese het Hangklip 'Ponta Espinosa' (Doringpunt) genoem en Van Riebeeck het in 1655 verkenneers oor land om die kus gestuur. In 1739 het 'n Deen (Andreas Grove) wat vir die Kompanje gewerk het 'n veepos, "Welgemoet", by Hangklip gehuur en in 1750 het Andries Louw een by "Het Waaygat" in die vallei bo Rooiels begin.

So, ons geskiedenis loop ver.

The wrecks in the vicinity make fascinating reading and so do the stories of the whalers. Did you know that for more than a hundred years the caves at Rooiels and Hangklip were inhabited by bands of runaway slaves, deserters and some Strandlopers who waylaid wagons going over the now Sir Lowry's Pass and stole livestock from farmers in the Overberg? They had a boat and weapons and were safe in their remote hideout. Rooiels even has a ghost story told to me by two people.

I want to thank everyone whom I have approached for their enthusiasm and their help - for all the documents faxed to me and for all the time they spoke to me on the phone giving valuable info. I would be thrilled if I could get more contributions. I am sure there are many stories about the area that could be included. I would like to learn more about the building of the road, the radar station which operated near Hangklip during the war, the prisoner of war camp that was built in the valley.

Ek sou ook graag meer wil weet van die kruis op die rotse naby Rooiels - glo van 'n Roos van Stellenbosch wat later in Pretoria gekry is. Ek hoor ook graag van 'n inwoner van Rooiels wat oorblyfsels

van die Strandlopers gekry het toe hy sy huis bou. Enige stories van die wildlewe is welkom asook voorstelle van wat nog in die boekie moet kom.

The Rooiels Ratepayers' Association has been contacted and has helped me. My phone and fax no is (021) 9499850, e-mail address [rsb@kingsley.co.za](mailto:rsb@kingsley.co.za) and my address 8 Reynolds Ave, Bellville.

Alle bydraes sal waardeer word.

Rita Blake

## MoneyMoneyMoney

If we analyse the Statement of Income and Expenditure of the RERA for 1997 the following interesting facts come to the fore:

Total income:  
R5002.87

Expenditure on the Breeze:  
R2489.70  
(Postage, printing, stationery)

Expenditure on Hacks:  
R870.16  
(Equipment, Postage, printing, stationery)

Postage and stationery:  
R532.69

Total expenditure:  
R4207.80

An audited report is available on request.

## PLAVEI VAN INGANG TOT ROOIELS

'n Vergadering met al die betrokkenes is op 19 Maart gehou. Teenwoordig was, o.a., die munisipale ingenieur en hoof-verkeersbeampte, die kontrakteur en plaaslike sakemense. Gedagtes is uitgeruil en konsensus is bereik oor die voorgestelde planne. Die ingenieur sal nou die finale planne vir oorweging voorberei.

Raadslid Julia Aalbers het genoem dat hierdie slegs as die eerste fase beskou moet word. Sodra die uitwerking van die plaveisel op die verkeervloei bepaal kan

word, kan daar beplan word aan verdere fases. Sodra die nuwe ryvlak voltooi is, sal die sakemense werk maak van die voorsiening van parkering vir klante.

Die eerste fase sal R70 000 beloop. R40 000 hiervan kom uit die Somchemfonds en R30 000 uit eiendomsbelasting. Dit sal 'n geplaveide ryvlak van ongeveer 100 m lank en 7 m wyd behels met 'n spoedwal wat ook as voetgangeroorgang sal dien. Die nuwe pad sal vanaf die teerpad tot by die hoek by die Sea Horse Inn strek. Die ryvlak self sal binne die padreserwes effens nader aan die huidige besighede geplaas word om sodoende die moontlikheid van meer intensiewe parkering aan die oorkant van Anemoneweg te skep wanneer hierdie besighede ontwikkel word. Hierdie plan sal ook tot gevolg hê dat die twee gedeeltes van Anemoneweg nie heeltemal reglynig teenoormekaar sal aansluit nie, om sodoende 'n kalmerende uitwerking op die spoed van voertuie uit te oefen. Die kleur van die stene sal by die kleur van die grondpaale aansluit.

Die beoogde tweede fase sal die bou van 'n verkeerssirkel aan die einde van die nuwe ryvlak behels. 'n Moontlike derde fase is die skep van skuinsparkering oorkant die huidige sakesentrum.

Die kontrakteur sal net na die Paasnaweek met konstruksie begin. Almal, veral die besigheidsmense, sien uit na hierdie verbetering en vermindering van die stof!

## Finansiële Advieskomitee

Die nuutgestigte Finansiële Advieskomitee van kundiges om die Hangklip-Kleinmond Munisipaliteit te adviseer oor die begroting, belastinge en beheer oor uitgawes, is reeds in volle gang. Die begroting en belastinge vir 1998/99 word tans oorweeg.

Die komitee oorweeg ook tans koste-tegnieke wat by ander munisipaliteite aangewend word om die kostes verbonde aan die onderskeie dorps-gebiede te bereken met die oog op gelykwaardige eiendomsbelastinge. Die impak en redelikheid van die algemene eiendoms waarde wat tans aan die gang is, sal ook deur die komitee beoordeel word.

Rooiels word op die komitee deur Eldie Brink verteenwoordig. Eldie is 'n voormalige lid van die uitvoerende komitee van die Rooiels Belasting-betalersvereniging



## SEAWATCH/SEEWAG

### MAKING WAVES

We are considerably stronger than last season due to increased funding! We now have 7 cell phones, large signboards with the numbers to call to report poaching, powerful spotlights and Seawatch T-shirts - all sponsored by MTN.

WWF has funded us for two and a half more years. This includes 70% of the salary of a Seawatch officer, the running costs for his vehicle and project running expenses.

We have bought a second-hand vehicle for our Seawatch officer.

Poachers have been active in the marine reserve and also along the smallholdings between Pringle Bay and Rooiels. Fortunately the diligent work of Mike, Pierre, Craig, Frank, Estelle and other Seawatch members resulted in several poachers being caught.

Mike and his wife are also helping the Sea Fisheries' research team by measuring all the shells of the poached perlemoen. These shells are found in heaps in the bushes or wash up on the beach. Very smelly work at times!

We are working to get a JUNIOR SEAWATCH off the ground. In the Kleinmond area it is running well under the guidance of Norris Schneider and is called "The Surfing and Seawatch Club".

There will be Junior Seawatch activities at Rooiels during the April holidays.

The enthusiastic and creative actions of our members is the biggest asset Seawatch has!

### WE DO NEED MORE MEMBERS!

You can help conserve our marine resources by doing the following:

- becoming an active member of Seawatch;
- distributing our information leaflets to the public;
- reporting suspected poachers to Seawatch (083 212 2252/3);
- checking and signing off divers' or fishermen's permits (it prevents them

from going in twice or more times a day);

- recruiting new members for Seawatch; and
- getting adults and children to attend sea workshops.

Thank you to everyone of you who helped SEAWATCH/SEEWAG by informing the public, policing catches and reporting poaching in the past. Your actions made a difference in changing the "culture of poaching". We aim to replace it with a "culture of community involvement" in protecting and maintaining our marine resources.

Evete Weyers

Chairperson: SEAWATCH/SEEWAG

## NEW LEGISLATION

Many recreational divers were very upset about the new legislation which prevented them from taking their quota during the week. The new law came upon them very suddenly and with no public debate or clarification.

We have been used to being able to dive daily during the season for so long that we think of it as our right. However, if we compare it with the laws in other countries, it places the issue in a different perspective.

In Australia one obtains a permit to remove only ten perlemoen of a specific species per year and on one prescribed day only - irrespective of the weather on that day.

In California all recreational and commercial diving for perlemoen has been banned from San Diego to San Francisco (more than 2000 miles of coastline). Two species of perlemoen have already become extinct.

In our area we only have between 1% and 5% of the perlemoen left, we had 20 years ago, and under serious threat. The laws are an attempt to rectify past inequalities of the quota systems and to protect the species from extinction.

As ons vir ons nageslagte perlemoen wil verseker sal ons self meer ekonomies moet wees met die uithaal daarvan.

Help asseblief met die beskerming van perlemoen sodat daar genoeg is vir ons almal, binne die wet.

## ROOIELS BOAT CLUB

The recently introduced measure to limit time for catching kreef is the hottest news for boat owners at present. Both boat catching and diving for kreef and perlemoen, is limited to weekends and public holidays between the hours of 8am and 4pm. Good for stocks in the water, no doubt, and it will make life for poachers more difficult, but for the law-abiding REBC members it is frustrating not to be able to go out on a Friday afternoon or for a sunset catch. The 8am start won't bother too many of us.

We had a successful open day on 28 December and you can diarise Sunday 27 December this year for another one. About 60 people went out to sea with members of the REBC and we had no shortage of skippers volunteering for this event.

Our AGM is on Easter Saturday at erf 101 and, as always, Rooiels erf owners are welcome.

Finally, do note the end of the perlemoen and kreef seasons - 13 April and 30 April respectively.

## Sea Side PROPERTIES

Hi!

**Greetings from Sea Side Properties to our Breeze readers and all others.**

**Well, the Christmas holidays have gone and Rooiels is settling down to its normal "rustige" self again. What a relief! We had a very busy season. It seems that more and more "locals" are letting their houses over the Christmas period. Rooiels was fully booked up with more visitors and new people staying here than ever before. As more people get to know Rooiels, the more popular it will become - not necessarily a very good thing as far as local sentiment is concerned, but it is**



really increasing the market values of your properties, I can assure you.

The weather was reasonably good with some very nice periods and some very high temperatures being recorded in front of our shop/office. On one or two occasions it was up to 39°C! Since January we have had a fair amount of wind, with a three day period of the strongest wind I can remember in 7 years. We seem to be having more windy days than usual, and going by the crisp Autumn mornings, we could be in for an early winter as well.

On the property side, quite a few houses are in the finishing stages, some new ones are starting to be built and others are still in the planning stage. Which brings to mind the negative side of building, namely the horrifying excavations and cutting up of the mountainside to facilitate the construction. There are instances where there is barely a piece of fynbos vegetation left, just heaps of bare rocks. Surely, the owners bought here in the first place because of our beautiful surroundings. Why then, in the final act of becoming part of Rooiels, destroy the very thing which attracted them in the first place? I know it is difficult to build on a steep slope, but there are ways and means of minimising the resulting damage. For instance, more use could be made of building on platforms which are supported by pillars. So, please erf owners, if you are planning to build, try to use an environmentally friendly construction method.

I would like to finish off with an appeal to all property owners who are not intending to build and those who are thinking of selling their homes, to please contact me as soon as possible. It is a seller's market and I have clients who are looking for properties. Phone me at 02823 28383.

Totsiens  
Jo Hensen - "The Rambler"

## Paasprogram Easter Programme

Woensdag 8 April om 9:00

### Junior Seewag

A talk and a seawalk. Meet at The Sea Horse Inn.

Vrydag 10 April om 8:00

### Junior Seewag

Come and learn how to track poachers and the value of the Marine Reserve. Ontmoet Mike Tannen en Craig Spencer by die Sea Horse Inn.

Saterdag 11 April om 9:00

### AGM: Rooiels Boat Club

Erf 101

Saterdag 11 April om 17:00:

### Geskiedenis van Rooiels

Come and listen to Rita Blake, and others, on the history of Rooiels. Bring own stories! Meet at Sea Horse Inn.

Sondag 12 April om 9:30

### Junior Seewag Werkswinkel

All youngsters meet Evette Weyers at the Sea Horse Inn for an interesting Seawatch workshop.

Maandag 13 April om 9:00

### Combined hack organised by the Wildlife and Environment Society of SA

Bring hacking implements and refreshments for lunch at Toni Scott's house.  
Ontmoet by die ingang tot Eagle's Peak op die R27

## THE SEVEN WONDERS OF ROOIELS

*One* Klein-Hangklip Mountain, especially its pristine southern face and slopes. It has been sad to learn that these now face a very real threat of destruction at the hands of a Rooiels property owner assisted, unbelievably, by the Provincial Government.

*Two* The nesting pair of black eagles and their two nesting sites on the southern face of Klein-Hangklip. May these eagles be spared for many years to come to return and raise their young successfully.

*Three* The rock monolith on erf 324. Miraculously, this huge slab of rock has remained standing vertically on its edge over the centuries. Now it, and its surroundings, too are threatened as the property owner has decreed that its site must be used as a traffic turning circle.

*Four* The Cape Clawless Otters seen mornings and evenings along the Rooiels shores. The tracery of other spoor on the stretches of sandy beach give clear evidence of the nocturnal comings and goings of these busy animals.

*Five* The troop of baboons that frequently visits the village. To see a fully grown baboon foraging for food in the nature reserve while the Rooiels breeze ruffles its fur into flowing waves is to see one of nature's truly beautiful. The baboons are real characters and an asset to Rooiels – an asset that should be admired, but NOT fed, by the human residents.

*Six* The rockjumpers. These bright little birds with inquiring minds are found fairly frequently along Porter Drive but have been seen periodically within the southern fringes of the village. These birds are usually seen only on higher mountain slopes and the Rooiels area is said to be the only location in which they are observed at sea level.

*Seven* The sun setting behind the peninsula as seen through a lattice of layers of cloud. This is observed best with a glass of good red wine.

### A Neighbour to Rooiels

Hierdie is 'n publikasie van die Rooiels Belastingbetalersvereniging. (REBV)  
This is a publication of the Rooiels Ratepayers' Association. (RERA)